

GAYDAR

magazine

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Summer 2007



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Cyndi Lauper
Lady Bunny
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News/Weddings.....	4
Health Alert.....	5
WarnerBros@TheAllentownMuseum.....	6
PrideoftheGreaterLehighValley/GLOSS.....	7
Lady Bunny.....	8
Summer Cocktails.....	10
Car Review: Volvo.....	12
Big Gay Sketch Show/ Amanda Bearse.....	14
Gay Pimp DJ Jonny.....	15
Out in The Woods.....	16
LettertotheEditor/Editor'sNote.....	17
Reichen Lehmkuhl.....	18
Two Moms for Demetrius.....	20
MusikFest Schedule.....	21
Patti LaBelle.....	22
SouthSide Map.....	24 & 25
More MusikFest.....	26
Gay Tours.....	27
Cyndi Lauper.....	28
GaydarGetsAround.....	30&31
CD Reviews.....	32
Jimmy James.....	34
2GuysGoDownontheTitanic.....	37
Freak Show.....	40
GaysSaidWhat?.....	41
Scott Nevins.....	42
Joe Sayers.....	44
Testosterone/ Joe Oppesidano.....	46

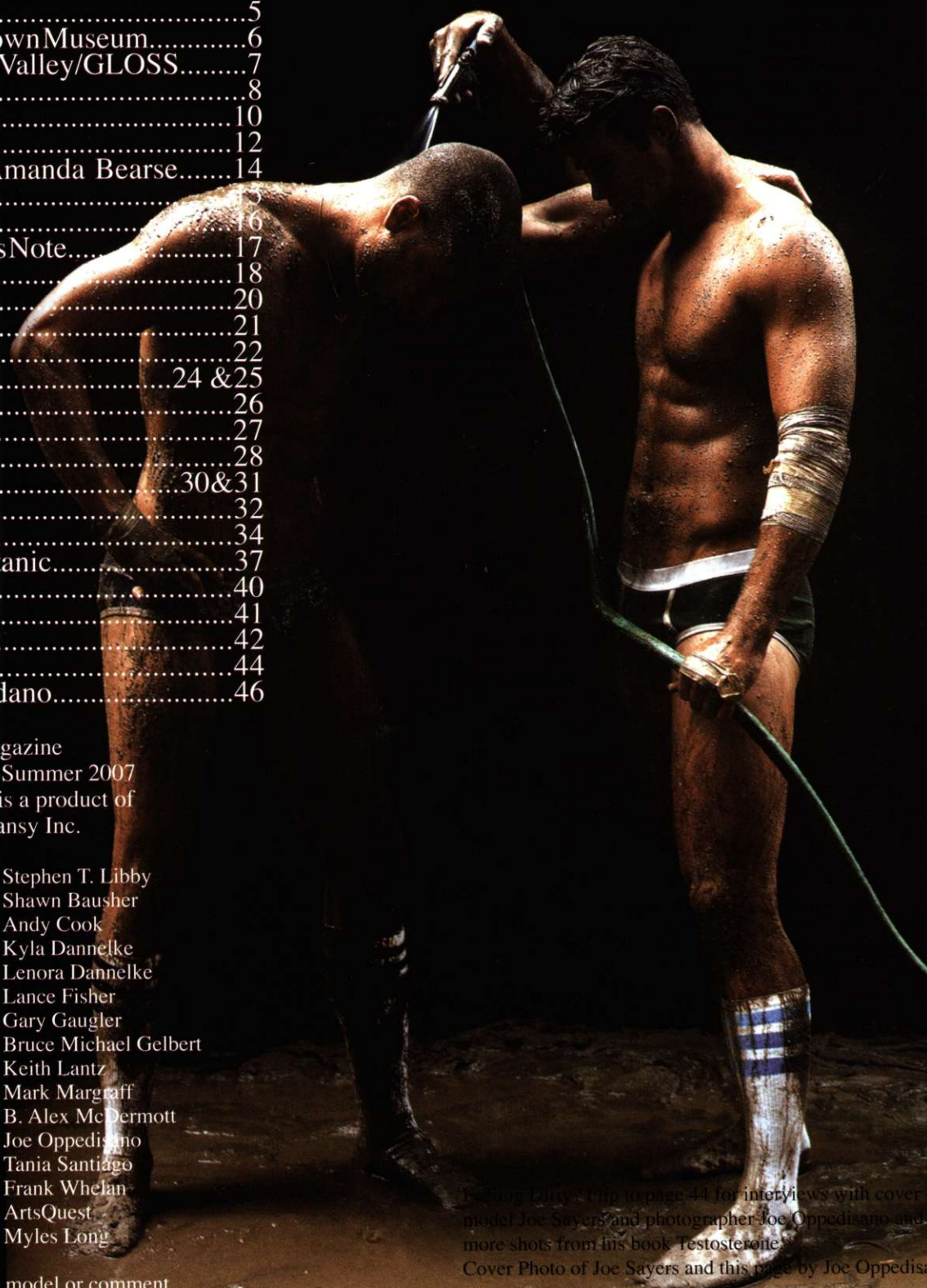
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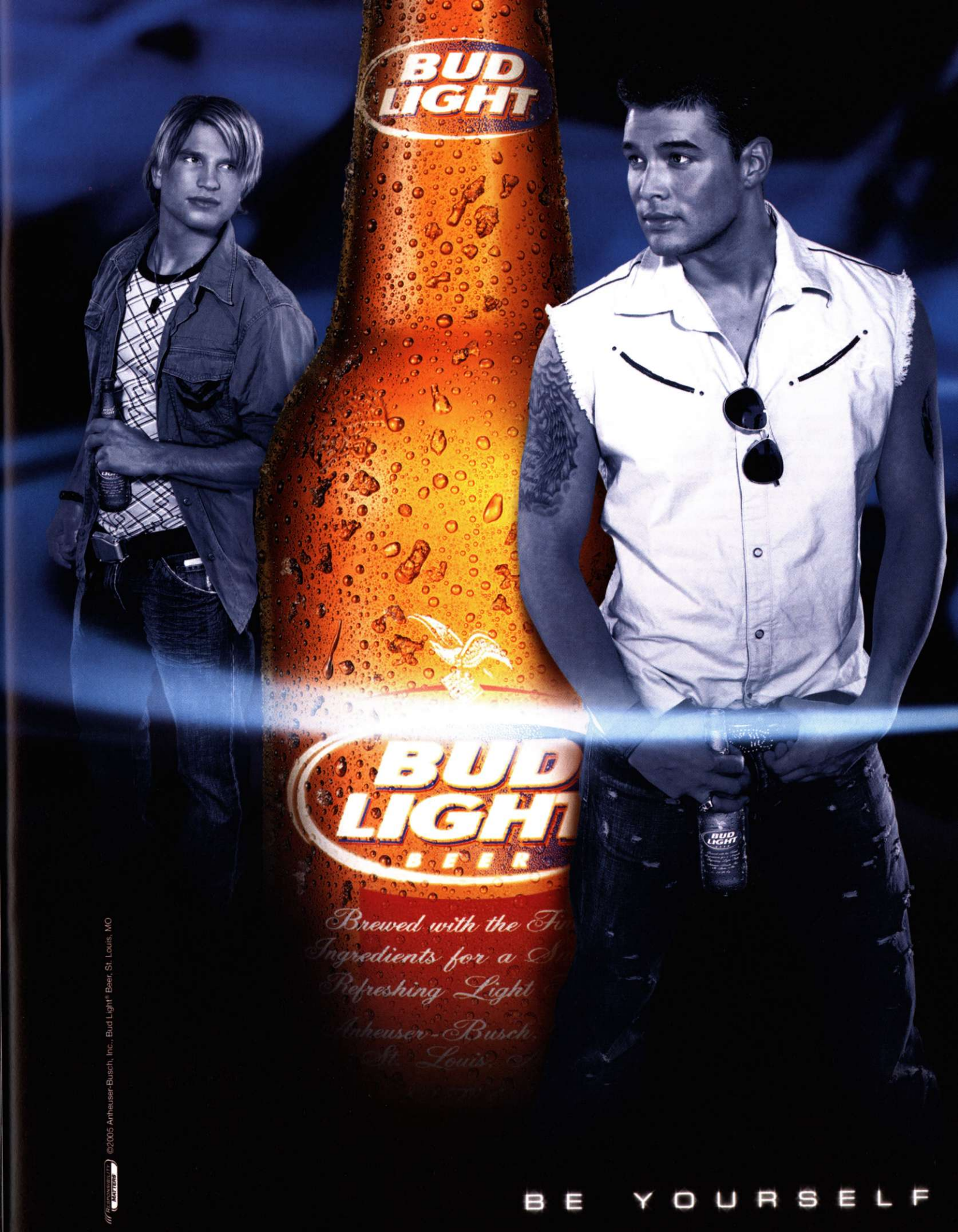
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Feature Story: Flip to page 44 for interviews with cover model Joe Sayers and photographer Joe Oppedisano and more shots from his book Testosterone
Cover Photo of Joe Sayers and this page by Joe Oppedisano



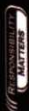
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BE YOURSELF

Weddings

LGBT Non-Discrimination Bill Introduced in PA Senate

April 12, 2007 -- The Pennsylvania Senate introduced an LGBT non-discrimination bill on April 10, 2007. The bill, SB 761, has now been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration.

The legislation would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

Sen. Pat Browne (R-Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton) and Sen. Vincent Hughes (Montgomery, Philadelphia) are the prime sponsors of the Senate bill. This is the third session that the legislation has been introduced. SB 761 has a record number of co-sponsors with 21 out of 50 Senators signing on to the legislation.

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania is coordinating the Value All Families Coalition to see that this legislation is passed into state law. The coalition is comprised of LGBT organizations, civil rights groups, labor unions and religious organizations, among others. In addition to Equality Advocates, the ACLU of Pennsylvania and the Women's Law Project took the lead advocacy roles in the Senate. The bill is also being supported by the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission which has unanimous, bi-partisan support for the bill.

Equality Advocates will be working with elected officials and allies to introduce similar legislation in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives this year.

While some of our state's residents and visitors are covered by local ordinances (Allentown, Easton, Erie County, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lansdowne, New Hope, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton, State College, Swarthmore, West Chester and York), LGBT people can be discriminated against without any recourse by simply crossing the city, county or borough line. The lack of uniform policy across the state also leads to confusion for LGBT people and employers, landlords and businesses. Courtesy of center4civilrights.org. Please visit their website for more information.



Photo By Steve Libby

On Sunday, May 6 Rev. Elizabeth Goudy and Carol Stevens, RN were married at Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley. Over 230 people gathered for the worship service, with Rev. Stephanie Barnett, Rev. Jen Glass and Rev. Jonathan Huyck presiding.



Photo By MAC Photography 2007

Doug Lindsay and Clarence Smith were joined together on Saturday April 7 2007 at a service held in the Masonic Temple in Allentown, officiated by Reverend Alice Hessinger. Clarence and Doug own DCS Cleaning Services in Allentown PA and not only are partner's in life but partner's in business as well.

A Vaccine to Save Your Rear & Possibly Your Life

BY KEITH C. LANTZ, MS

If you haven't heard by now about the new vaccine against human papilloma virus (HPV) called Gardasil, you might want to get to know about it whether you are a woman or a man. You probably have seen the television commercial for this vaccine where girls chant "I want to be one less."

Cervical cancer

Gardasil is a controversial vaccine produced by Merck and Co., Inc. that was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June 2006. It can protect women against certain strains of HPV that can cause cervical cancer — the second most common cancer in women and the 7th most common cause of death from cancer in women. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that about 20 million people in the U.S. are infected with the HPV virus.

Gardasil is currently the only HPV vaccine approved for use in girls and women age 9 to 26. However, Gardasil will not be the only HPV vaccine for long as another pharmaceutical company, GlaxoSmithKline, is currently in final testing for its own vaccine called Cervarix. Since the approval of Gardasil, several states have moved to mandate the inclusion of the vaccine into routine school vaccination programs. But

Facts about HPV

- About 20 million in the U.S. are infected with HPV
- HPV infects via skin contact so you can get it from sexual contact that isn't penetration
- HPV is a DNA tumor virus and there are over 100 types
- About 15-18 types of HPV are associated with cancer
- 2 types of HPV are associated with warts (types 6 & 11)
- Diseases HPV causes
 - Genital warts (from types 6 & 11)
 - Cervical cancer (70% from types 16 & 18)
 - Anal, throat, and other cancers

this move has spawned much controversy since the optimal time to administer the vaccine is in the pre-teen years so that it can provide protection prior to the onset of sexual activity.

Most would think that a vaccine that can stop a person from getting a type of cancer would be a good thing. However, many conservative organizations such as the Family Research Council have come out against the vaccine. Their logic is that vaccination against HPV would promote promiscuity and pre-marital sex in teens. But, does wearing a seat belt make you drive more recklessly?

Other critics view the mandated vaccination

with Gardasil as an intrusion on parental rights.

However, most pending state measures do give parents the right to opt out of vaccination programs.

Currently many healthcare professionals are doubtful whether Gardasil — which costs \$360 per 3-shot regimen — will prove to be cost-effective if provided to boys (and/or men) as well. However, the healthcare community is asking "But what about the vaccine's effectiveness in preventing anal cancer, throat cancers, and genital warts in boys and men?" Throat and anal cancer

While men do not have cervixes and therefore cannot get cervical cancer from HPV, they can spread the sexually transmitted virus and are vulnerable to other cancers caused by HPV. A study released recently from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health shows that HPV (particularly strain 16) is also a leading factor in throat cancer, which can affect both men and women. Other studies have shown that HPV can contribute to cancer of the penis and the anus.

Although anal cancer can affect anyone (gay or straight, men or women), it is more common among men with histories of receptive anal intercourse. It has been estimated that the annual rate of anal cancer from HPV is about 35 cases per 100,000, and perhaps twice that for people infected with HIV. In addition, healthcare experts say that the anal cancer rate for gay men is similar to cervical cancer rates before the advent of Pap smears, a test that can be used to detect precancerous abnormalities. In recent years, some primary care doctors have advised their gay male patients to undergo anal Pap smears as part of routine preventive care. This news has led gay men in many large metropolitan areas such as London and San Francisco to seek out the HPV vaccine. To aid their effort, new research into the usefulness of HPV vaccines in men and people infected with HIV has been undertaken.

A vaccine similar to Gardasil that was made from a fragment of HPV was found to be safe for use in HIV-positive patients with precancerous anal lesions, according to the results of a study published in 2006 in the journal *AIDS*. The study provides some preliminary evidence that a vaccine may be useful in HIV-positive patients. Precancerous lesions, such as those found in the 15 HIV-positive patients in the study, can progress to anal cancer if left untreated and these types of lesions can be more common in gay men than in the general population. These lesions are also common among HIV-positive men and women, and do not usually resolve after patients start taking medications against HIV.

Currently available treatments for precancerous anal lesions include removal with surgery or other chemical treatments. Unfortunately, these are not completely successful, particularly where the lesions are widespread in or around the

Facts about Gardasil

- **Product:** Gardasil developed by Merck & Co., Inc. and approved by FDA in June 2006
- **Who is it approved for:** For girls and women 9-26 years of age for the prevention of diseases caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16, and 18:
- **Cervical cancer**
- **Genital warts**
- **Precancerous lesions**
- **How is it given:** By intramuscular injection with 3 doses total (2nd dose 2 months after 1st and 3rd dose 6 months after 1st)

anus. Gardasil may be a new tool doctors can use to fight not only cervical cancer, but anal and other cancers caused by HPV as well.

As with prescription drugs, doctors in the United States can administer Gardasil "off label" to anyone, since FDA approval is for advertising, marketing, and distribution, but medical doctors can use any drug or vaccine however they feel is most appropriate. In Europe Gardasil is already available for all children (boys and girls) age 9 to 15.

In the United States, Merck is sponsoring clinical trials of Gardasil in 4,000 men, including 500 gay men. The first results are expected by the end of 2008. However, recruiting gay men has been a challenge since the vaccine is intended to prevent an initial infection with HPV. Unfortunately, many people become infected with HPV during their first few years of sexual activity. So, for the part of Merck's study in gay men, Merck is recruiting men ages 16 to 26 who have had no more than 5 sexual partners. In effect, the gay men in the study have to be men who have sex with men, but those who have not had too much sex with men.

Gardasil and other soon to be available vaccines such as Cervarix are tools doctors can use to fend off some types of cervical cancer caused by certain strains of HPV. In the future, these vaccines or similar vaccines may be used to guard against other diseases including anal and throat cancers. In the meantime, for men especially, experts say the best options are to play safe, wear a condom, and know your sexual partners.

Learn more about HPV at these government Web sites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/>

<http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/cervix.html>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/hpv.html>

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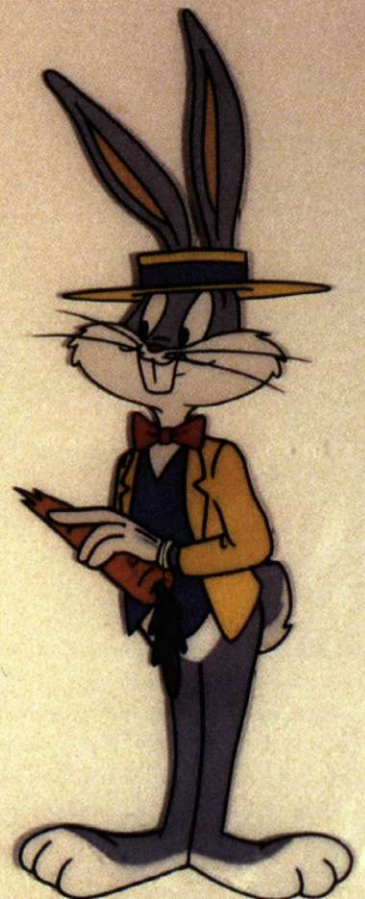




Photo of Pride Board Members courtesy of Doug Lindsay

Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley Interview with Shawn Bausher

Gaydar Magazine: Pridefest from June to August? Explain.

Shawn Bausher: The main reason for the change in date is that the City of Allentown had committed to holding SommerFest through the entire June 14-17 weekend at Cedar Beach Park last fall. Since Pride GLV was in a state of reorganization, there was talk about not having a Pride in the Park 2007. The city and SommerFest organizers had no choice but to move forward with their plans for a June festival. They welcomed Pride to have the festival on our usual Sunday in June and the share the park, but it seemed in our community's best interest to have PTP on another date. The date change will avoid confusion between the two festivals' entertainment, vendors and activities, as well as alleviate space restrictions. Another reason for the date change is that it is often difficult to schedule entertainment for PTP due to many other cities having Pride events during the same month. The board thought that this may be an opportunity for us to not compete with other festivals and secure the best entertainment at an affordable rate. We also realize that Pride is something that is celebrated year round and not just in the month of June.

GM: What has been the feedback from the community?

SB: Well, according to our online poll on our web site the majority either agree with the move or have no opinion about it. Other non-profit agencies in the area think the move is a great idea and we have also received positive emails from people stating that they are glad we are not having the festival on Father's Day. On the other hand, as expected, we had several complaints about the move from community members because the festival is not being held in "Pride Month." However, other festivals are not held during June like New Hope, Harrisburg and Reading Pride. We realize that we are not going to please everyone. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact us at info@prideglv.org. If volunteering is not your thing, we can always use financial support. Since we are a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, a portion of your donation can be tax deductible. We also have membership options with benefits. Visit us at www.prideglv.org to apply for membership

GM: Other cities have expressed disappointment in the lack of volunteers for their own Pride organizations. Do you find that to be true here in the Lehigh Valley?

SB: I absolutely think it is true and sad. If New York City Pride is having trouble recruiting volunteers, imagine what it is like for us in a smaller town!!! Unfortunately here in the Lehigh Valley it seems that our community has difficulty supporting one another. Since we are a small community, we often get hung up on the past. Sometimes it seems that everyone is so critical and unwilling to give second chances that they forget that we are all trying to make the community a better place for all sexual minorities. The thing that really upsets me is that no one wants to volunteer unless there is some direct reward for them. In other words, since they are not getting paid they want something in return. In my opinion, we have turned into a very selfish society. People have no problem spending hundreds of dollars and hours at a bar/club but get very irritated when you ask them to help out or give a donation to a non-profit. It is not just happening to Pride but to many of the non-profit organizations in the Lehigh Valley. We are no longer altruistic - maybe we are just tired or maybe we have forgotten what it was like for our brothers and sisters in the past.

GM: In your opinion, what are some of the recent successes and disappointments for PrideGLV?

SB: I think that Pride has started a new and exciting chapter in it's history as an organization. With the addition of some new board members and a larger board (9), we have fresh ideas and as you can see we are doing some fundraising that we have never done in the past. We are pairing with other non-profit and social groups to increase our visibility and to show the community that we NEED to work together for a common goal. Not many people realize but Pride is not just about having a festival. Although that is our biggest event, we are trying to educate the community and provide social alternatives for people and create a safe space. It is our hope to eventually have a community center and other programming, but that cannot happen without volunteers and sponsorship. We also have the Rainbow Scholarship which is now accepting applications for scholarship rewards and we hope to keep that program going. That committee has worked hard at trying to get the word out that we can help the LGBTI youth with their college plans. As far as the disappointments, overall I think it has been a successful year so far. The one thing that I find disappointing is the community support, which IS slowly improving. This is my first time being involved in an organization like this since I moved to the Lehigh Valley and I must say that it has been an eye opening experience. I have to give credit to the other LGBTI organizations of the LV because I cannot imagine the struggles that all of you have been through trying to mobilize resources and people in this area. And I think it is equally important to say "thank you" to you all for sticking it out and making this a great place to live. This community needs all of us and we have to find a way to come together. We need to use our energy to volunteer and make the community better and THAT is the reward!



Photo provided by Fabio Urbana

Fabio Urbana, GLOSS

Gaydar Magazine: How and when did GLOSS start?

Fabio Urbana: The group started in 1991. I was at the FACT games at Rainbow Mountain that year and they had volleyball set up. I noticed a lot of people playing and they were all having a really good time. I talked to one of the guys who was playing and we thought wouldn't it be great if we could do this on a regular basis?

That was my inspiration to start a group where GLBT people could get together and have fun while engaging in a healthy activity. The group back then was called The Velvet Spikers and we got together on the weekends to play volleyball in the Lehigh Parkway. A few years later a friend of mine approached me about starting a tennis group.

That's when we saw the need to create an umbrella organization for local GLBT sports groups, which eventually came to be known as the Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS).

GM: What are the activities and frequency offered by GLOSS?

FU: During the warm months GLOSS offers volleyball and tennis on a weekly basis. During the cold months we have bowling and pinocle once a month. There's a racquetball group that gets together year round on a weekly basis. We used to do game nights once a month but we currently don't have a venue. There are other activities which are offered on a more informal basis, like skiing and snowboarding, partner dancing, cycling, and hiking. There's also a weightlifting group that is just starting up. Part of the mission of GLOSS is to help people start their own groups based on the activity that interests them. We help them out by promoting it in our newsletter and website.

GM: How can one become a member?

FU: There is no membership in the formal sense of the word. Our activities are open to anyone, and best of all, they are totally free. We aim to serve the GLBT community, but do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. To join in, all people need to do is to show up at one of our activities. To find out more they can sign up for our mailing list by going to our website (www.gloss.org) and entering their email address, or emailing us at Info@gloss.org. People who don't have access to email can read about us in the Valley Gay Press. I have made a lot of lasting friendships with people whom I never would have met otherwise. My hope is that other people will too.

Lady Bunny

Interview By Stephen Libby

Photo Courtesy of Lady Bunny



Gaydar Magazine: Tell us about the new single and are there plans for an album.

Lady Bunny: No album yet, but The Boneheads and I are working on a new single called TAKE ME UP HIGH. We're also approaching some compilations about the current single IT'S TONIGHT.

GM: What is life like on the road for the Lady B?

LB: Hectic! Sometimes people say that I'm lucky to travel so much. But when you fly into your destination, check in at your hotel, jump in drag, hit the club and leave the next morning, it isn't exactly leisurely sightseeing. But if I'm working somewhere I like I can often stick around for a few extra days, so that's a plus.

GM: What is some of the wildest shit you've experienced in the world of show business?

LB: I remember hosting a PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) event with Bea Arthur from THE GOLDEN GIRLS. She was very stern and drove me to drink--though that doesn't take much. Soon I found myself seated on a toilet fooling around with two gorgeous Turkish cousins. "One in each end, bring a friend" has always been my motto!

GM: Share a groupie story with our readers?

LB: I met a guy on Myspace who was only 21. At the time there were reports of child molesters preying on kids via Myspace, but this kid was freakier than me! These kids are so crafty! He immediately sent me a link to a slide show he'd created of some guy sucking him off, complete with music and a title: LADY BUNNY, I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO SUCK MY COCK. I then met him in Miami and when he picked me up he insisted on stopping to pick up a porn

mag featuring puppy porn, where the guys wear dog masks! I decided he was a little too freaky for me. Maybe he thought I was a dog and that's what turned him on! Unfortunately, my "dog mask" doesn't come off!

GM: What can one expect at a Lady Bunny show?

LB: FILTH! If you'd like a sample, you can always watch a clip from my dvd at http://www.ladybunny.net/loader_flash.html. It's called RATED X FOR XTRA RETARDED if that gives you any clues. There's everything from song parodies to one-liners and even a little Kate Bush!

GM: Who are your inspirations and what motivates you as a performer?

LB: Patti Labelle is my favorite performer of all time but I don't really try to emulate her. I also love Alicia Keys and Diana Ross. I'm a big fan of the soul divas like Chaka Khan, Stephanie Mills, Mary J. Blige, Mariah Carey, etc. As far as motivation to perform, it's the money! Oh! And uh, all my adoring fans!

GM: What's next for Lady Bunny?

LB: I am travelling throughout the states for gay pride festivals and club gigs, and kicking it off with a hilarious gig where I am Dennis Rodman's date for his birthday party at Score, a straight strip club in Vegas. What a scandal to start escorting at my age! Better pack some XL condoms for that huge motherf*cker! I also write a semi-regular column in Genre magazine and a weekly WORST OF THE WEEK fashion column for The Star mag.

Lady Bunny
actress, deejay, singer/ songwriter,
comedienne, ho
www.ladybunny.net

Summer Cocktail Report:

By Lenora Dannelke
Photo By Stephen Libby

The Forecast is Hot and Trendy

On a sultry summer evening, there's nothing better than sipping into something comfortable – and stylish. Whether you're shaking things up at home or letting your favorite mixologist pour some “wow” over ice, a chic and refreshing libation transcends mere beverage status to become a mini-vacation in a glass.

As the cocktail renaissance continues to flourish, the bartender's art has taken cues from the kitchen. "I take a seasonal approach to creating new cocktails and like to incorporate local foods," says Adam Ryan, bartender at Starfish Brasserie's new StarBar. Fresh-from-the-market ingredients range from cool cucumbers and juicy fruits to fragrant herbs and spices such as rosemary and ginger. "Flavors are more interesting when you mix sweet and savory together," he notes.

Ryan's stellar creations run the gamut from Rosemary's Baby (Hendrick's gin, simple syrup, rosemary leaves and green Chartreuse liqueur) to the Sucker Punch (orange vodka, Bacardi rum, mango puree, pineapple, passion fruit and champagne). Cocktails are carefully chosen to complement the deliciously enticing "small plates" menu that features such diverse tastes as shrimp toasts with seaweed salad and honey wasabi and Belgian-style moules frites (mussels and fries) to duck salad confit with cherries to a simple assortment of succulent olives.

StarBar's current state-of-the-art drink list also includes one of chef/owner Dick Barrow's personal favorites, the Pastis. "That's the classic drink of Provence," he says. Pernod, brightened with seltzer, team up for an exhilarating licorice-flavored potation that will transport your palate to the south of France.

A Rainbow of Flavors

Liquor companies are catering to adventurous, eclectic tastes with a dizzying array of flavored offerings. From the delicately delicious Grey Goose Pear to the tropically seductive Malibu Passion Fruit Rum, imbibers are bombarded with an ever-expanding and sometimes confusing number of options. "That's why you should develop a good relationship with your bartender. They'll know what's coming on the market and can keep you informed," says Natalie Miller, one of the owners of Looper's Grille & Bar on Bethlehem's SouthSide. "We're always getting great new products, like Zen Green Tea liqueur." The staggering mar-"tee"-ni list at this golf-themed watering hole tops 400 varieties, which basically guarantees something-for-everyone satisfaction.

In fact, a stop at your favorite bar can be considered an information-gathering research mission: It's often wise to sample one professionally mixed drink made with an unusual type of alcohol before investing in a pricey bottle. For example, 267 Infusion Chile Pepper Tequila looks gorgeous and may sound appealing, but this piquant potion could set off an overwhelming fireworks display on your tongue. "When you're

experimenting with cocktail recipes at home, always make a very small version first," Miller advises. "That way, if you don't like it, you're only pouring two or three ounces down the drain – instead of a whole pitcher."

Customized Pleasure

Despite the recent plethora of flavored spirits, Ryan still recommends a do-it-yourself approach. "Infusions are hot. They're easy to do at home and you can really taste the difference," he says. Vodka, a neutral spirit, works best at showing off fruity and herbal flavors. "Tequila and rum have stronger tastes, so infused flavors don't come through as well. But you can also try gin infusions. Star fruit is great with gin."

Infusions take time, though, so planning ahead is imperative. Place the desired blend of fresh fruits, vegetables or herbs in a lidded glass jar, pour the spirits over the top, seal and store out of direct sunlight – but not in the refrigerator. Let your flavor choices be guided by your personal preferences, from a tart citrus combination to a subtle and earthy teaming of ginger and pear. "Most infusions take about two weeks, but you can check how the taste is developing after a week," Ryan continues.

Glamour in a Glass

For another outstanding selection of innovative cocktails, take a country ride to The Freight House in Doylestown, a chic and sensual restaurant that turns into a sizzling dance club on Thursday through Saturday evenings. General Manager Jay Stevens is continually devising cutting-edge, seasonally-driven drinks for thirsty crowds, including such temptations as a Strawberry Rhubarb Martini (fresh rhubarb-strawberry puree, strawberry vodka, triple sec, and sour mix), a Vanilla Mango Green "Tea"ni (vanilla vodka, triple sec, concentrated green tea and mango puree) and a blissful Clementine-Champagne Mojito.

"Combining tastes is a big thing right now, but to do that successfully you have to keep the flavors balanced," Stevens says. For example, the sweetness of clementines may be tempered with the tart acidity of fresh limes. "Strawberries with champagne are fantastic – and anything made with champagne is glamorous – or try using Prosecco if you prefer a sweeter base."

If you're hosting a dinner party, Stevens also suggests replacing a traditional – and often heavy – dessert with a cocktail. "People are cutting calories, and a drink that's a cocktail and dessert all in one can be a much lighter option," he says. "A drinkable dessert affords a cool cordiality that people

can relate to – it's the kind of thing you see Martha Stewart making on TV."

Presenting a beautiful cocktail, prepared tableside, at the end of a meal also lends a dash of theatrically to the evening. So, if you aspire to be a legendary host, start shaking it up.

Limelight

Courtesy of Adam Ryan at Starfish Brasserie's StarBar in Bethlehem
Makes 1 cocktail

This refreshing summer cocktail, made with muddled cucumber, offers a break from convention – but still manages to be accessible and delicious.

1 oz. lime-flavored vodka*
1.5 oz. simple syrup
1 oz. fresh lime juice
Cucumber
Fresh mint

1. Muddle cucumber in a mixing glass, add mint and bruise.

2. Add remaining ingredients, fill glass with ice, shake, strain and pour into a martini glass, garnish with a sprig of mint and a cucumber wheel.

*If lime flavored vodka is unavailable, substitute regular vodka and add a splash of Rose's lime juice.

Basil Pineapple Mojito

This drink is a sensational hot-weather twist on the original. As a bonus, it's a cocktail that goes great with summer food!

Courtesy of Jason Stevens at The Freight House in Doylestown.
Makes 1 cocktail

This drink is a sensational summer twist on the original. As a bonus, it's a cocktail goes great with summer food!

4 oz. Bacardi Rum
3 oz. citrus syrup*
4 large basil leaves
4 large mint leaves
1/4 lime (cut into wedges)
2 oz. cubed golden pineapple
2 tsp. raw sugar
1 oz. club soda

1. Muddle basil, mint, lime, pineapple and sugar in glass.
2. Top with ice.

3. Fill glass with rum and syrup.
4. Shake vigorously.
5. Top with club soda

*To make citrus syrup: 3/4 assorted citrus juices and 1/4 sugar, boiled and cooled

Volvo C70

BY ANDY COOK

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHEN LIBBY

An excellent car for all seasons



c70

Typically known for stodgy and safe cars, I am quickly reminded of the line from the 1990 Dudley Moore movie *Crazy People* where he and other mental patients create truthful advertising campaigns. Their take on Volvo was a classic: "Volvo – Boxy, but Good." In the last 10 years or so, Volvo has undergone a transformation, creating cars that people want, and moving away from the boxy styling. They have done exceedingly well with their line of wagons and SUVs (XC90, XC70). They have even had some fast versions (the 'R' moniker) and are adding all-wheel drive to most of their offerings.

This issue's car review is on a 2007 Volvo C70 T5 Convertible. The previous generation C70 was a coupe (anyone catch Val Kilmer driving one in *The Saint*?) as well as a soft-top convertible. This new C70 is based off of the Volvo S40, a platform shared with Mazda (the 3) and European-version Ford Focus (which we don't get here). It is front-wheel drive and chock full of the latest safety features, as you would expect from the Volvo brand.

It's very interesting that power retractable folding hardtops are all the rage. From the high end (Mercedes SL-class, Cadillac XLR), down to the Mazda MX-5 (nee Miata), soft-tops have almost become passé. Now you can have open air driving alongside the security of a metal roof with a glass heated rear window. Volvo has joined this growing category of hardtop convertibles with this new C70. The bonus is that the Volvo is a 4-seater, with a reasonable amount of room.

Engineering-wise, retractable hardtops are pretty cool. If you've never seen one in action, it is quite a feat, with metal and glass contorting and folding like a wonderful origami puzzle. Personally, I think those Cirque du Soleil acrobats have an easier time twisting themselves about.

Let's talk about the first obvious item with the Volvo: going from enclosed coupe to open air driver. To put the show into action, the car must be in Park, and your foot must be on the brake pedal. Press and hold the console-mounted button, and watch as the Volvo's 3-piece roof goes up and over your head, and stacks into itself before lowering itself into the trunk. It's very cool to watch, and takes about 30 seconds to go from open air driving to a weatherproof, quiet interior. Even the thick fabric headliner separates and is part of the folding dance.

Sitting behind the wheel, you are supported by great seats, and look at a nicely designed dashboard. Gauges are clear, and controls fall readily to hand. The dashboard is like that in the S40 sedans, which means it's very stylish. The center stack (radio and climate controls) is on a vertical piece of aluminum so thin you can reach behind it. It's almost sculptural (I know, not what you were expecting for a car's dashboard). A friend commented that it looked like a wide remote control, and I agree with that description. There's also a bin located behind there with an auxiliary input where you can plug in your portable MP3 player, too. Smart thinking these days!

The tester I drove was the T5, meaning it was powered by a turbocharged 5-cylinder engine. It was mated to a 5-speed automatic and produces 218 horsepower. The driving experience was good. Good road feel through the steering wheel, very comfortable power-adjustable and heated seats, and an awesome sound system. The car was equipped with the optional Dynaudio sound system, which has 12 speakers, 2 of which are subwoofers. This car also had the optional 5-speed Geartronic automatic transmission (a 6-speed manual is standard), and it did a good job of shifting smoothly up and down through the gears. You can also shift the automatic yourself using the gearshift.

This car really looked great. The exterior was a Celestial Blue metallic with light gray

leather upholstery. And, it looked good with the top either up or down. The arc of the side windows (driver and rear quarter) is very visually appealing. The trunkroom was decent. Of course the hardtop fits in there giving you significantly less carrying capacity, but remember, this car has a back seat, perfect for those weekend duffel bags.

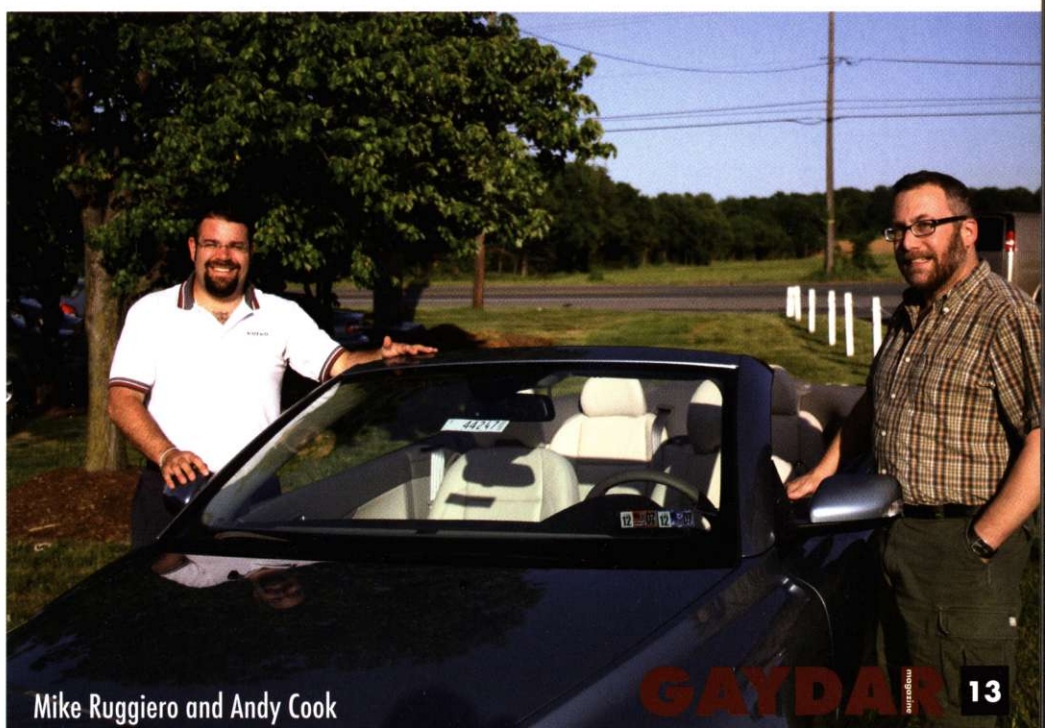
Safety-wise, this car has it all: front and side airbags, door mounted inflatable curtains, ROPS (RollOver Protection System), and a whiplash protection system. Hey, it's a Volvo, remember?

Any gripes? Just a couple. Acceleration with the turbo was decent, however another 50 or 60 horsepower would be quite welcome. Also, I was surprised by how small the outside mirrors are.

How much does one of these run? Without options, the car is still quite loaded for \$40K. The one I drove had a window sticker of about \$46K. A lot of technology for the money. Add in the versatility of a folding hardtop convertible, and the safety of a Volvo and you get a nice package.

Our thanks to the fine people at Brown Daub Volvo on Rt 191 in Nazareth, PA for providing the car seen in these pictures for this review. Specifically, I'd like to mention Mike Ruggiero, Volvo Sales Manager. If you want to learn more about the C70 or any of Volvo's other models, give Mike a call at 610-759-1000 ext. 658.

Car fans, rejoice. Convertibles, it seems, are here to stay.



Mike Ruggiero and Andy Cook



Amanda Bearse

Interview by Stephen Libby

Gaydar Magazine: First, let me tell you how much I still love to see you on re-runs of *Married With Children*. You were my favorite character, Marcie Darcy. One of the best neighbors in the history of television. Tell us about the Big Gay Sketch Show on Logo? Is it really just a bunch of gay people sitting around drawing pictures?

Amanda Bearse: We are so fortunate to have such a talented group of artists at the BGSS... some work with Playdough, some finger paint...everyone brings their total creativity to the table...I particularly enjoyed the nude subject.

GM: What are some of the highlights of BGSS so far? Guests etc?

AB: The experience as a whole, shooting the first six episodes, was so great. The first day of shooting ("Bear In the Burbs") we were on location...I think it was Geraldo Rivera's house (I did peek at the photos inside). I bet he didn't know he had a "bear" around

back. And Parker Posey came to one of the live tapings...she's amazing...and not just because she likes the show.

GM: What have you been up to since the end of *Married With Children*? What other projects are you working on?

AB: My major production of life is called Zoe...that's my daughter. She's my full time job, and the pay is not good...but the payback is. Actually, when "*Married*" ended I kept directing sitcoms...tens of thousands (or at least it felt like it). I also started directing sketch comedy on "*Mad TV*", and played with them for quite a while...good prep for the BGSS.

GM: Are you in a relationship?

AB: Yes. And I adore her.

GM: Where do you think Marcie is and what is she doing?

AB: First of all, Marcy would be pissed because you spelled her name wrong...but she's very forgiving. She and Jefferson

have split...he came out and I believe she's on husband number four (or five...I'm not sure). But god bless her, she's a romantic at heart and she'll keep trying 'til she gets it right. She's now selling real estate.

GM: Some cities are reporting an apathy from the young GLBT community regarding Pride and the need for visibility. What are your thoughts on this issue?

AB: Pride is kinda same 'ol, same 'ol, isn't it? What if we did something cool like the "True Colors" tour or another big musical event that toured as a pride event? The several days of drinking thing is not that interesting, don't ya think?

GM: Who would win this Celebrity SmackDown: Marcie Darcy vs Peg Bundy and why?

AB: Marcy would not smack Peggy...they're too good of friends. But she could take Al any day of the week and snap his spine.

Photo Courtesy of Project Publicity

Jonny McGovern Takes Our Gay Pimp Quiz

Interview By Stephen Libby

Check out Jonny on the Big Gay Sketch Show!!!

Gaydar Magazine: Spill it!! We want to know everything about Jonny and what makes him sweat. (worth 50 points)

Jonny McGovern: Jonny McGovern (I am so big I can write in third person) is without question the sexiest, most fagotty, most retarded , gloriously shameful glamorous international superstar of the year. Very little makes me sweat and when I do little bits of pink glitter come out in the place of liquid. THAT's how very gay I am!

GM: How will you be spending your summer? (10 points. Bonus points for name dropping and/ or a shout out to your lube of choice)

JM: I will be jet-setting across the world with my new performance collective TEAM PIMP and a butt load of barely legal go-go boys on Elton John's private jet where for our entertainment Elton has hired the old school supermodels (Naomi, Cristy, Linda and Kate)to give us runway battles and catfights, he has gotten Martha

Wash to come aboard and sing her greatest hits and the entire cast of the Golden Girls (Estelle too) will be reenacting our favorite episodes live to ease the boredom of the hours in the sky whilst on our globe trotting luxury filled private jet flights to Milan, London, Paris and Moscow... Once we land I will send the gogo boys to pick up some astroglide from the local gift shop! Ok ...seriously I will be in NYC recording the summer season of my podcast "GayPimpin' With Jonny McGovern" (the number 1 gay podcast on itunes), throwing my Saturday night party "Boys Gone Wild" at Mr Black and touring a bit to promote my new record "Gays Gone Wild"!

GM: Explain the difference between a Gay Pimp, the Gay Mafia and Ben-Gay?

(40 points)

JM: Gay Pimp is the favorite son of the The Gay Mafia....poor Ben Gay is their least favorite son he's one legged, one eyed, smelly and the arch nemesis of Gay Pimp.

GM: The highest number of guys you've been naked with at the same time? (10 Points)

JM: 5 guys with another few guys watching.... what can I say? I went through a big slut period! Nuthin wrong with that! It's a gay rite of passage -the slut phase five way otherwise you turn 30 and say 'why haven't I f*cked 5 guys at once'!

GM: What would you bring to Gay Pimp

School for Show & Tell? (10 points)

JM: The entire Varsity Soccer Team from my Gay Pimp School For Young Homos, A Black Lady Choir led by Loleatta Holloway, a dvd and portable screening room to show all my new videos "Somethin' For the Fellas"and my LOGO TV show "the Big Gay Sketch Show", a copy of my new record "Gays Gone Wild" (on itunes now gurl!) And those damn rhinestone pants!

GM: Who are your Gay Pimp role models? (10 points)

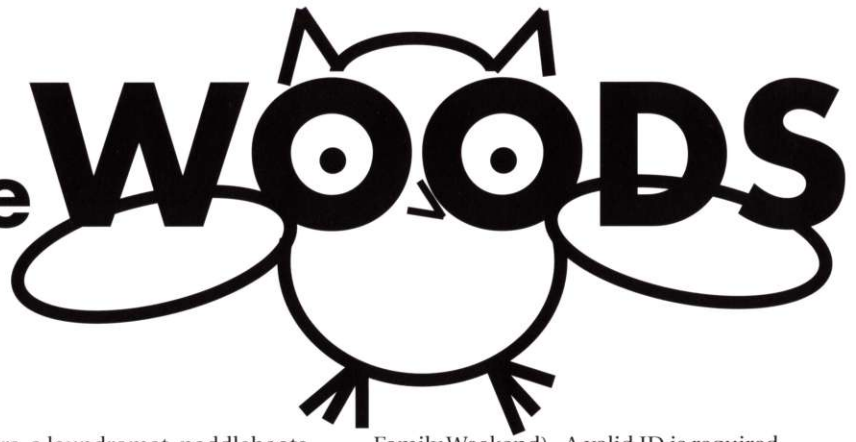
JM: The Late Willie Ninja, Founder of the House of Ninja is someone who wanted to take voguing , the gayest art form ever-from tiny ballrooms in Harlem to the runways of Paris and the rest of the world....and he did it!!! Then he continued to support other young gay artists til the day he passed. He was a real gay hero> (Note to readers: if you don't know who I mean check out my fave movie, Paris Is Burning, to get the scoop)

GM: Bonus Points for a message to all the gay boys out there looking to become a Gay Pimp?

JM: Look Cute and Feel Cute...then every body will think that you are the cutest! And a gigantic c*ck doesn't hurt either! Not only did Jonny pass the Are You Really The Gay Pimp Quiz, he slammed it and rammed it with 150 points. Your addition may vary. Take the quiz and send us your answers: gaydarmagazine@hotmail.com

OUT in the WOODS

By B. Alex McDermott



Whether legitimately “roughing it” on the side of a mountain or plugged in to the stately comfort of a modern recreational vehicle, there is an attraction to being one with wilderness that appeals to a great and diverse number of people.

Nestled in a secluded area minutes from the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike is one such haven of nature - The Woods Campground. A gay and lesbian campground catering to long-term seasonal (also known as “perm,” campers), overnight/weekend campers and day campers. Anyone looking to escape the hectic pace of everyday life and return to the calm, relaxing nature of... well... “nature.” Purchased in 2003 by Patrick “Woody” Gremling, Scott Heffelfinger and John Adam Parr the property is a beautiful, one hundred acre expanse offering the best of both modern and rustic getaways. Owner Woody Gremling went into more detail about the many features the campground has to offer, including a five acre lake, multiple mountain streams, and “awesome” hiking trails. According to Gremling, “you can really come and relax with nature. We’re trying to take the best of every campground we’ve been to and bring it to The Woods.” There are many luxuries you would not expect to find at a campground. A recently expanded pool deck surrounding a large, clean pool provides the chance to read or enjoying an afternoon snack... or even swim! The site also offers two spas and poolside massage. “We’ve also made sure there are plenty of areas to keep dry in case of rain,” Woody assures that campers can quickly forget about bad weather. “Most rainy days ruin a camping trip, but you can come up to the clubhouse and order a pastry from the cafe, sit by the fireplace or play a game of billiards with your friends.”

The campground caters to a “resort” style of vacation which can be very appealing to even the most “Grizzly Adams” of campers. Bathroom facilities

with showers, a laundromat, paddleboats, volleyball, horse shoe courts, billiards, table tennis, bonfire gatherings, a disco with a professional DJ, cafe, convenience store, in addition to organized games and activities... it’s almost impossible not to find something to do! Of course, you can simply collapse beneath a shade tree and do nothing if you choose!

The campground attracts campers primarily from a six state region (PA, NJ, NY, DE, MD, CT) but receives visitors from as far away as Florida. In an attempt to keep current with today’s trends and lure more “cosmopolitan” visitors to The Woods, an expansion plan is in progress. A multi-phase plan has begun

“you can really come and relax with nature. We’re trying to take the best of every campground we’ve been to and bring it to The Woods.”

that will add sites as demand increases. Tentative plans put sites at over 300. With the expansion of sites also comes an expansion of amenities: larger clubhouse and a bigger disco, a larger (or additional) pool, a bigger cafe, more cabins, more pavilions, tennis and basketball courts, bigger convenience store, obtaining a beer license, camp-wide Wi-Fi internet, as well as many other luxuries with the hope of exceeding the expectations of the campgrounds guests. There is also a bed and breakfast on the drawing board which may remain open outside of the six month camping season. Of course, there’s no way to maintain a pristine and appealing vacation destination without rules. The camp is restricted to guests 18 years old and older (except during

Family Weekend). A valid ID is required at registration. The entire property is clothing optional except while eating in the cafe. Woody elaborated on their goal of making the campground friendly and safe by emphasizing “we give every person who becomes a member a list of rules so there should be no questions.” These can also be found on the policies page of the website. It is the goal of the owners and staff to maintain a friendly, welcoming environment.

Although the campground caters to permanent campers they encourage the overnight and day campers to visit and enjoy the many features they have to offer. First time visitors and overnight campers are not treated any differently than permanent site owners. According to Woody, “the only difference will be the color of their parking pass! The “perms” love having weekend and day-pass guests. Some have even made sure they have a weekend site next door so they have different neighbors each weekend. It certainly helps me because the perms become my orientation staff for the first time guests. They tell them where everything is and when everything happens. It’s hard to explain the social atmosphere a campground has - especially a gay campground. Guests immediately know they have something in common, something that we normally have to hide. It’s so refreshing to be able to talk openly without fear of ridicule. You should hear some of the poolside conversations!”

The great outdoors is closer than you think, and more appealing than you may have imagined. So, take a day off and enjoy The Woods! The campground is open May through October. For directions and more information contact the campground at (610) 377-9577 or visit their website at www.thewoodscampground.com.

Letter to the editor

Dear Gaydar,

I absolutely love my interview in the new Gaydar Magazine (Issue no.8). It's among the best I've done so far. I am so happy you didn't censor me, hehehehe. It was so nice of you to include my description, the chapter and my site. I can't thank you enough. People who saw it, so far, love it and they said that it is really me. I will post it all over! And I will distribute the copies and promote Gaydar Magazine as I said: like a mad gay Jehovah witness. Thank you from the bottom my heart. I am so proud to be in your magazine. I am working on the most crazy book, Pure Americana, and will introduce it to you among the first.

Cordially,

Bazhe

Dear Bazhe,

Thanks so very much for the words of praise regarding your interview. However, the credit goes to you for being such an interesting person and talented writer. We anticipate Pure Americana and wish you all the best with your inspirational writings.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Libby

Coming Soon

www.gaydarmagazine.com



Editor's Note

Summer has always been my favorite season. Summer means FUN! Summer means vacations to the shore, half naked boys around the pools, outdoor concerts and pride festivals, camping and hiking in the woods, frozen margaritas and mojitos, convertibles on windy roads, sex on the beach, the gays with no shirts and natural tans, cookouts with my grandmother shouting through a gulp of her Colt 45 "I want my burger rare! You're cooking it too long!" But, I digress (and regress).

This issue of Gaydar focuses on many of these themes to refresh your spirit. From reviewing the new Volvo hard-top (and who doesn't love a hard-top?!!) to our summer drink and summer music reviews. We have also featured exclusive interviews with some of the best in the industry who just happen to be headlining summer music tours. You can't go wrong with living legend Patti LaBelle, pop icon Cyndi Lauper, horny Gay Pimp DJ Jonny, naughty-nighty wearing Lady Bunny, impersonator extraordinaire Jimmy James or (woof! woof! pant! pant!) hottie celebutant Scott Nevins on the stage entertaining you. MusikFest, the True Colors Tour and the Babylon Arctic Tour! Oh my! Order your tickets! Now!

Along with many others, I have had a crush on Joseph Sayers since I first saw him in an Abercrombie & Fitch catalog a few years ago. So, you can imagine my excitement (everywhere) when I spied him in Joe Oppedisano's book Testosterone. They both granted interviews for this issue with hot picks to get you excited (everywhere). Brains and Brawn: Reichen talks about his passion to bring about change in policy for gays in the military. James St. James discusses his FreakShow. Don't miss historian Frank Whelan's 2 Guys Go Down...on the Titanic. I wonder if they swallowed...much water. My BF and BFF team up and against each other for comedic results in Gays Said What?

The forecast calls for mostly sunny skies. So, throw down the top and cruise to the Woods Campground. Neatly nestled between MusikFest and the Allentown Fair in August is the Lehigh Valley PrideFest. Don't forget all the festivals in South Side Bethlehem, too. A rainy day on the horizon? Pull out the hard top and jet over to the Allentown museum for the Warner Bros. cartoon exhibit. Or hang in the house and watch Logo's new Big Gay Sketch Show and read about Demetrius' two moms.

A humungous THANK YOU to all of our advertisers. Please visit them online or in person and tell them Gaydar Magazine sent you. A grande GRACIAS to all of our contributors. Without you our readers would be subjected to more of my writing. No one wants that!

Here's hoping that all the memories you create this summer are sweet & sweaty and don't include the ramblings of some old boozehound through her Colt 45 breath. Just try to shake that image. I love my grandmother. And summer. Equally. Cheers!

Stephen T. Libby

Editor-in-Chief gaydarmagazine@hotmail.com

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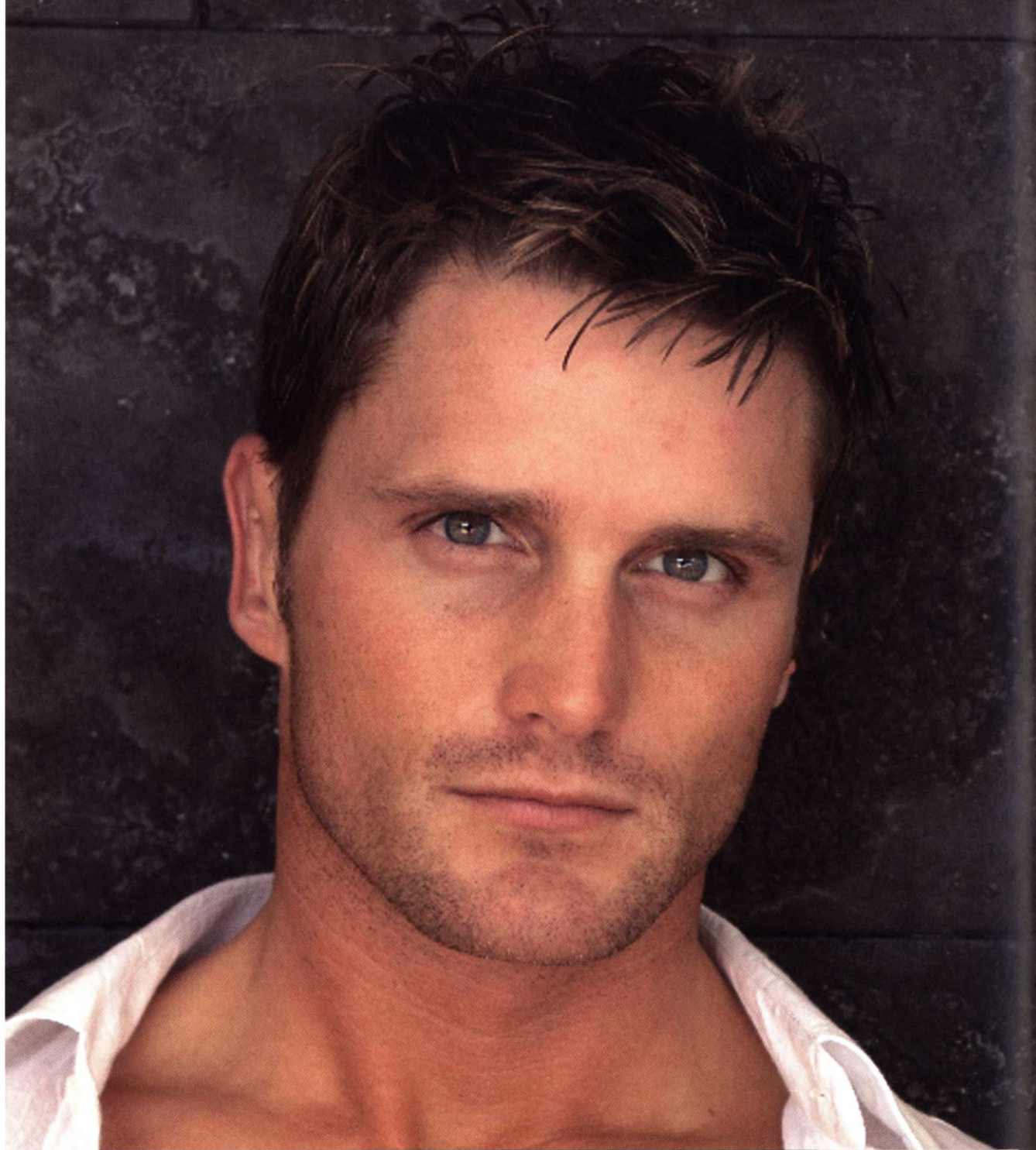
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Reichen Lehmkuhl

Interview By Steven Libby
Photos Courtesy of The Reichen Group
www.TheReichenGroup.com



Gaydar Magazine: Hey Reichen. How are you?

Reichen Lehmkuhl: I'm Well.

GM: Tell me about your book, *Here's What We'll Say: Growing Up, Coming Out and the U.S. Air Force Academy*.

RL: I wrote the book because I wanted to talk about the secret society of Gay Cadets that we've formed, almost out of necessity, at the Air Force Academy when I was a cadet there. And also to purge myself of everything that had happened in my life up to the point where I got into the AFA. Things that I thought affected me and the way I behaved when I was at the academy. And the second part of it was to publicize the best way that I could the disgrace that is now the continued ban on gay people serving in the U. S. Armed Forces openly. It's really important to me that the book has brought to light the tragedy that we have existing in this country in that area. The results have been amazing. I'm right now writing a sequel to the book that is going to cover my 5 years in active duty after graduation from the AFA. The sequel will be nearer and dearer to the heart of this military problem.

GM: How can we make it better for people who are gay in the military?

RL: What we can do, besides having a first world type of country law on the books saying that gay people can serve openly in the military, which is what we should have in the United States, the second thing we can do is provide counseling and protection for gay people who are serving openly and need a place to go to talk with someone when things aren't going perfectly for them. The third thing that we need is background training and education for other military members who are not gay to understand the plight and how gay people feel when they're serving, some education on what it's like to be gay, what it's like to serve in the military as a gay person and the special needs that gay people have only because they are discriminated against. I'm not saying that gay people need special rights, but when there is discrimination against any minority group there are special needs that gay people require. Those things are equally important as just lifting the ban.

GM: Why do you think we are so resistant to equality for gay people in this country?

RL: I think the reason is deeply rooted in religion. Or what I call "Jack Religion". Jack religion is when we've taken beautiful religious philosophies like Christianity and hi-jacked them and put in our own dislikes, prejudices and basic evil into those religions

that cause us to judge people based on those religious philosophies. Religious leaders in this country who are homophobic know that religion impacts people in a huge way. They know religion can control people. So when they add a prejudice into a religion and when they add anti-homosexuality into their religion they know they have control over their flock. It's an easy and disgusting use of the power of the religious leaders. I liken religious leaders who preach anti-homosexuality to past war criminals who have taken away human rights from people in all different countries and at all different points in history.

GM: It's admirable that you have chosen to use your celebrity for these causes. How has your life changed since you became a household name via *The Amazing Race*?

RL: It's changed in that 1) it's completely surprised me. I had no idea that what we did on *Amazing Race* would end up in my being a household name. It led to appearances on a couple of prime time shows in Hollywood and soap operas. And 2) for the gay community to embrace what I did with my partner on *Amazing Race*...it's just been a treat. I have nothing bad to say about it. It's given me an opportunity to bring to light what is important to me which is the gays in the military issue.

GM: Do you have other acting aspirations?

RL: Yes I do. Unfortunately, I've put that on the back burner so I can focus my energy on equal rights for gays in the military and in society. There may be an opportunity in the future and if I think the impact would be great I would go ahead and put that first as a priority.

GM: Is there any talk of adapting the book to a movie?

RL: There is an entire production company that has been started that is completely dedicated into turning *Here's What We'll Say* into a film. We've had a couple of different charitable foundations and organizations grant us the seed money to get this started. We're so excited about it happening.

GM: How can like-minded people help support this?

RL: There's always the very true idea that if you become aware of an issue and you have an opinion on it, and put it out there in daily conversation, you're changing the world for the better. If you want to do something more active, you can lobby to your congressperson. You have every right to do this as a taxpayer. You can make a difference.

GM: How do feel about people who are not ready to come out?

RL: It's funny. (laughs) I've been accused of being the "closet cleaner" at times. But, that couldn't be further from the truth. I hid in the closet for a very long time. Change only happens when we're out. But, I don't fault people for not coming out. You have to feel safe. You have to come to terms with it for yourself before you need to be outed to the whole world. I think that people deserve the respect to come out to their family and friends and feel comfortable with that before other people out them. That's what I find so disgusting about this "blog-o-sphere" world. We are diving into these people's lives and outing them, before they are ready to come out. And you're really not doing anyone a service by outing them before they are ready. You're just making them more bitter toward the gay community as a whole.

GM: I have two more questions. The first is probably the most anticipated, though.

RL: Okay...

GM: Boxers or briefs?

RL: (laughs) Briefs. Because they are easier to put on...

GM: Okay.

RL: ...and take off. (laughs from Reichen, his agent Shannon, Raven proprietor Terrence Meck and me)

GM: What do you want the readers of *Gaydar Magazine* to know about you?

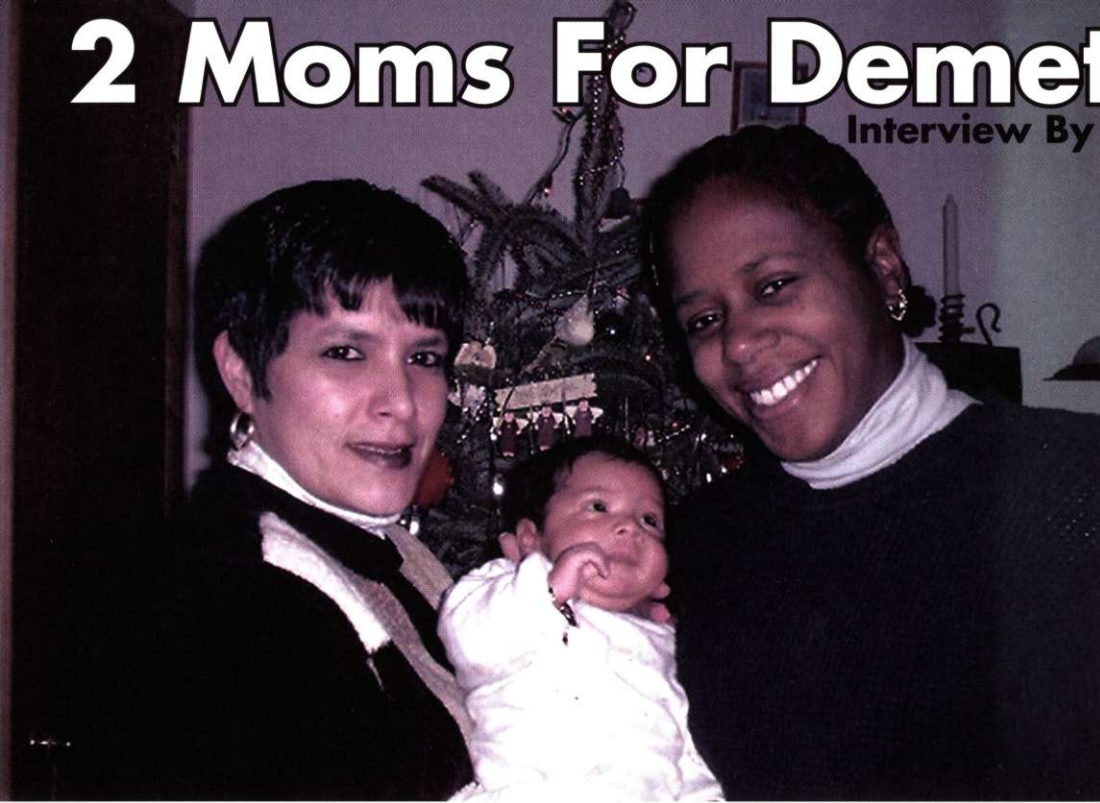
RL: I feel that a lot of the work I am doing is a double-edged sword. I get so much fulfillment and reward from being given the opportunity to speak in public about the things I care about and I feel very blessed to be able to make a living from doing these things. However, I continue to be a pretty insecure person when it comes to negative public opinion about me and who people think that I am. I am very sensitive to negative exaggeration in the press. I'm not complaining. And the good always outweighs the bad. I just tend to be a sensitive guy. When you read my book, you'll see why. During my childhood I believed I was this horrible, awful person that would never amount to anything because that's what I was told. It's a battle everyday, even as an adult to escape that.

GM: Just one more question. Who inspires you to be this active and vocal?

RL: Yeah. George W. Bush inspires me to be so vocal. (laughs) I have to laugh, but then again I'm very serious. When I see someone in such a huge leadership role completely ignoring the issue, it makes me so want to speak out loud against that complacency that we have in our presidency.

2 Moms For Demetrius

Interview By Tania Santiago



Its not often in the world today we experience successful relationships and family. In a world where the statistic for broken families is rising, coming across an auspicious lesbian family is fortunate not only to the family itself also to those of us who still question the concept of true love.

Mattie Morales and Pauline Ross. Nineteen years ago the two women worked together, met and fell in love. Mattie brought a son from a previous marriage to the relationship. The couple raised this child during their relationship. He is grown and out of the home with a child of his own. Pauline and Mattie are now experiencing being grandparents for the first time along with parenthood all over again. In 2002 Pauline became pregnant through artificial insemination. In November 2002 Pauline gave birth to a son, Demetrius. I met with Pauline and Mattie to discuss their relationship, their son, the ups and downs of parenthood and finally their secret to a having a successful lesbian family.

Gaydar Magaizne: At what point did you decide as a couple you wanted a child?

Pauline & Mattie: We talked about it for a long time. We were together 10 years and we discussed it over that period of time. There were some times we wanted to give up. There were disappointments; the process took 7 attempts over a period of 3 years. That was the tough part.

GM: How did you as a couple decide Pauline would carry?

P&M: Mattie is no longer able to have

children was the primary reason. Also Pauline possessed a desire to bring a child into the world from a personal standpoint as well as a personal motivation. The motivation arises when Pauline made a promise to her mother. While coming out to her mother she also made a promise (as a teenager) she would make her mother a grand-mother someday.

GM: And now 5 yrs later here you both are with Demetrius, your son. What is it like raising a child of your own together? What have the 5 years been like for you both?

M: First 2 weeks were rough; he was in the NICU with jaundice. It's been an experience.

P: There was really nothing to compare it to. When I got with Mattie her son was almost a teen-ager and I never had a child before. I can't compare it to anything. It's been an amazing experience.

GM: How out are both of you and how has your immediate community accepted your new family?

P: While pregnant I worked. I am out at work. (Laughing) It was a little awkward walking into my boss's office and telling him I was pregnan. He looked right back at me and said, "Who's pregnant?!" After that was all cleared up, they were fine. I was paid maternity leave and received all benefits allowed to me from my job.

M: I worked privately and the people I worked for were very excited for us.

GM: Explain your day to day with Demetrius?

M: Pauline was able to stay with him for the first 3 months, and from then on I stayed

home to care for him during the day. Before he began school, he and I spent most of the day together till I thought he was sick of looking at me. (Laughing) When Pauline would come home from work, she would then spend time with him. Now he goes to Pre-K. I take him every morning and pick him up every afternoon. Then Pauline will come home and spend some quality time with him before he goes to bed. They like to do their own thing together.

GM: And what does Demetrius call each of you"

M: Pauline is mom. I am Mimi. We thought it would be easier that way, so he can recognize who his birth mother is, as well as his second

mother. Less confusion for him.

GM: Tell us some things you discuss with Demetrius on having 2 Moms and how to handle teasing which could or could not happen in school?

P: He started to tell people he has 2 mommies on his own. What we explained was that not all families have a Daddy and Mommy; some families have one Mommy, some families have one Daddy, some families have 2 Daddy's. All families are different. He has asked why he doesn't have a Daddy and I just have to explain to him this is the type of family that doesn't have a Daddy. So Demetrius created one. He has an imaginary Daddy. We believe this is done for attention.

(Laughing) Although his imaginary Daddy has a six-figure salary, lives in Florida, is a fireman with a plane and a dog.

GM: So he has an active imagination?

P: Oh yeah (laughing)...we are poor and his imaginary Daddy is rich. He lets him do all kinds of things we don't.

GM: How are you protecting yourselves as a family with respect to the gay issue of marriage and rights to the child should anything happen to either one of you?

M: We are looking into second parent adoption, currently. So no one can interrupt our lives and anyone raise our son but us.

P: That is what a will is for. Should anything happen to me, Mattie will care for my son.

GM: Would you do it all over again?

P&M: Absolutely!



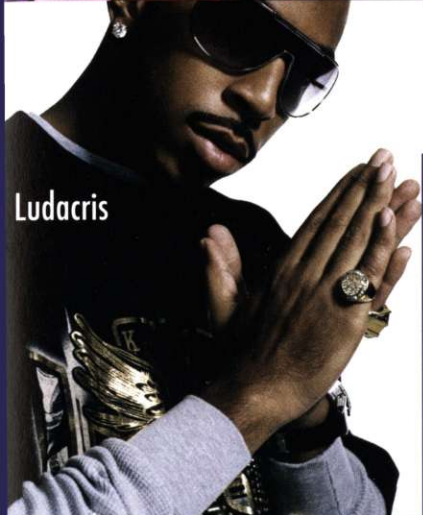
B.B. King



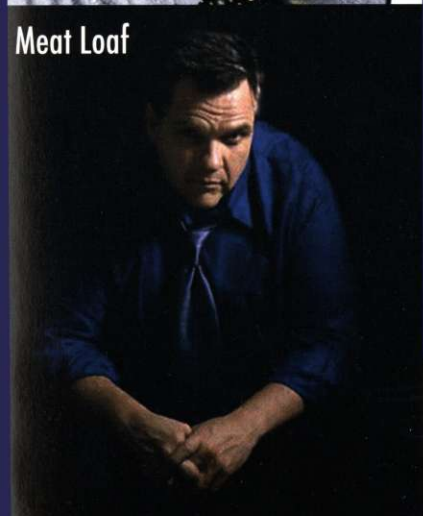
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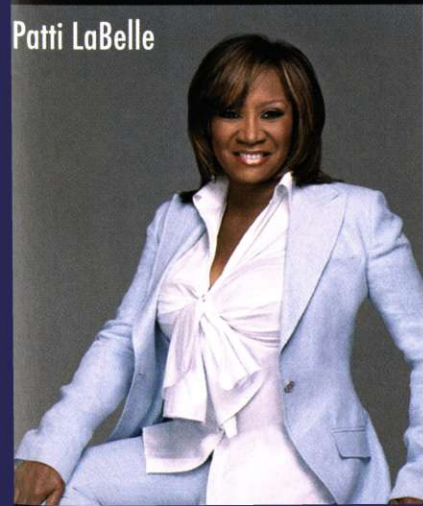
Big & Rich



Ludacris



Meat Loaf



Patti LaBelle

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Etta James



GAYDAR 21



Patti LaBelle

Interview By Stephen Libby
Photo Courtesy of Musikfest

Patti LaBelle: Hello, Stephen?

Gaydar Magazine: Hello, Patti LaBelle!

PL: I'm sorry I'm late.

GM: You're Patti LaBelle. It's OK.

PL: It just got crazy around my house.

GM: Let me first say, I remember listening to *Lady Marmalade* when I was nine years old, dancing and singing it around my parents' house. It's amazing they didn't realize then that I was a gay boy.

PL: (laughs) They should've known something was up. They didn't get it, did they?

GM: They didn't get it then.

PL: Have they got it now?

GM: Oh, they got it know, alright.

PL: (laughs)

GM: I love *New Attitude*, *Stir it Up* and so many other Patti LaBelle songs that are a very important part of the soundtrack to my life.

PL: Oh, thank you.

GM: I'm going to start with a few questions from our readers.

PL: That's fine.

GM: From Lenore Dannelke: Given the passion you have for music and food. If you had to choose between singing and cooking, which would you pick and why?

PL: I would choose singing, because I could fill someone's stomach with my voice, I believe, it's so big and loud. It would be like they just had a meal. It would make me feel better too. I don't need all the food. All my life I've been eating so I've had enough food to get by.

GM: She had interviewed you for *Chili Pepper Magazine* and remembers you saying you love spicy food.

PL: Oh, yes. Everything spicy!

GM: Next question is from Brad Zuercher. He wants to know what you thought of the 2001 remake of *Lady Marmalade*.

PL: Phenomenal. I was blessed to get a chance to do it with them on the Grammys. They all bowed down like I was the queen. It was just beautiful. I loved the video. I loved Christina's voice. She's phenomenal. Pink sent me a note saying "you're the beginning". Mya and I performed it for a Breast Cancer benefit. I went to see Little Kim in prison. We did a little bit of *Lady Marmalade* there. They're my girls.

GM: Emily Gartner writes: What keeps you motivated to stay in such a volatile for so long and specifically how do you deal with being away from your family and missing out on important events in their lives?

PL: I never miss out on important events in my children's lives. Usually they're with me. And I stay in the business because it is so volatile. I show them I'm that girl you don't mess with. I'm still standing at 62 and will stand on.

GM: Rev Beth Goudy writes: I heard you started singing in a church. What's your absolute favorite song to sing at church?

PL: It would be the Mahalliah Jackson song at the end of the film, *Imitation of Life*. The song is called *Trouble in this World*.

GM: Do you still sing in church?

PL: Yeah! In my church in my heart. I don't go to the buildings too much. I did a church concert tour about four months ago. However, I don't have a regular church building that I attend. Just the church according to Patti LaBelle. (Both laugh)

GM: The next question is from Dale &

Glen: Out of all the incredible songs you've performed, which is your most sentimental favorite and why?

PL: Bob Dylan's *Forever Young*. I did it at Live Aid and I did it for Oprah Winfrey's 40th Birthday. Some people will be forever young. I think I'll be forever young. And Imagine by John Lennon. They are songs I just love, love, love to sing. Those are two of my favorites.

GM: It's difficult to believe that you're 62. On the phone you sound like you're about 25.

PL: Amen to that. (Both laugh)

GM: Next question is from Brandon

Warner: You're a very popular entertainer in the gay community and have performed at many GLBT events and fundraisers over the years. You're also a PA resident. Can you remember the first Pride event you attended? And was it as a performer or a spectator? And what did you take away from that event that may have changed your views of the gay community from that day forward?

PL: It had to be as a performer. And what I took away from it was what I knew before I got there; that I was a person that gay people looked to respect them. When I left I felt a lot of respect from them and I left them with a lot of respect. The reason I came was to give them some more love. I wanted them to know that anything you do is okay.

GM: That's the end of the reader's

questions. Over the past few days I've done my homework and read some about you.

I have a few questions of my own now.

PL: Okay.

GM: You're an author, you have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, you

have an honorary doctorate...

PL: Six. I get my sixth doctorate in Birmingham on Saturday.

GM: ...you're a mother to five children...

PL: One natural, four adopted.

GM: ...godmother to Cyndi Lauper's son and to Mariah Carey...

PL: And Laura Nero's son.

GM: By the way, Cyndi Lauper is in this issue also.

PL: Really?! That bitch!

GM: (laughs long, loud and hard)

PL: Oh, when we talk to each other we call each other the most horrible names. We can't even say them in public. She's my dawg.

GM: (Trying to regain some semblance of composure)

PL: We pick at each other big time. I love her.

GM: You've been a restaurateur, a spokesperson for diabetes, a Grammy-award winner, chart-topper, Broadway actress, LaBelle was the first African-American group to perform at the New York Metropolitan Opera House...

PL: LaBelle is recording an album now to come out next year.

GM: I can't wait for that! With all that on your resume, what do you consider your greatest accomplishment?

PL: Giving birth to my son.

GM: Tell me about the children you adopted.

PL: My sister asked on her dying bed, if I would be their mother. Of course I was going to be anyway. Then there were two boys who lived across the street from me, when I lived in another home, whose mother died and left five boys. So, I took two.

GM: In French, LaBelle translates to "the beautiful". What is beautiful to you?

PL: It's so beautiful when I see a stranger helping a stranger. You should treat people the way you want to be treated. I carry flowers through the airport from fans at different venues because I don't want to throw them out. And people will come up and compliment the flowers or the dog you're holding but not say anything about the person. When I see beautiful women or men I'll stop them and say, you look awesome! I feel sad that we don't reach out to each other more. Just a little act of kindness everyday.

GM: What is your passion today?

PL: Making my bathroom look cute.

GM: (laughs)

PL: No, really. I went to some antique

stores and other shops and bought a bunch of red. Just to lift my bathroom up. My bathroom is beautiful, it's just all yellow. It's boring. I've been running to stores and buying little antique pieces and oriental rugs. So, I've been on a red kick.

GM: Uh-huh...

PL: And I don't like red.

GM: right...

PL: I don't like it on me. I like it around me. And it goes with my dull green and dull yellow. It brings it out.

GM: Yeah...

PL: And I found this frame...every year Clinton was in office he sent me a birthday card. I don't know who put this one in the basement, but I have about twelve things from him and Hilary. So, I'm finding things and putting them up.

GM: How does it feel to be respected by someone like a former president?

PL: Oh, it's awesome when you like a person and I really, really like him. That's why I feel so proud. I found this in the basement and I was about to pimp-slap somebody, (yells) 'who put this down here?'

GM: While we're talking presidents, who is your pick for 2008?

PL: I got two.

GM: Who are they?

PL: You know...

GM: Yep.

PL: God, I mean I love them both.

GM: It wouldn't hurt my feelings to see a Clinton/Obama or Obama/Clinton ticket.

PL: I don't care which way. I just want them in. Let's pray.

GM: We talked a little about LaBelle and the new disc. What else can we expect from you in the near future?

PL: I'm signing with a new label. You'll see the LaBelle album out this year and new Christmas album by me this year. Tour of LaBelle in 2008. A cooking DVD before October. My new hair line by September. You should have Patti LaBelle Hot Sauces and a Patti Grille, like the George Foreman Grill. So many things are on my plate that I am such a blessed woman.

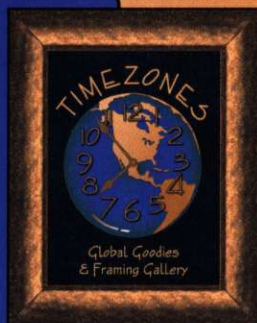
GM: You are a blessed woman. I said it before but you have the energy of a 25 year old. I believe you will always be forever young. You are a wonderful spirit and it has been a joy talking with you.

PL: I enjoyed talking with you too.

GM: See you at MusikFest.

PL: I'll see you there!

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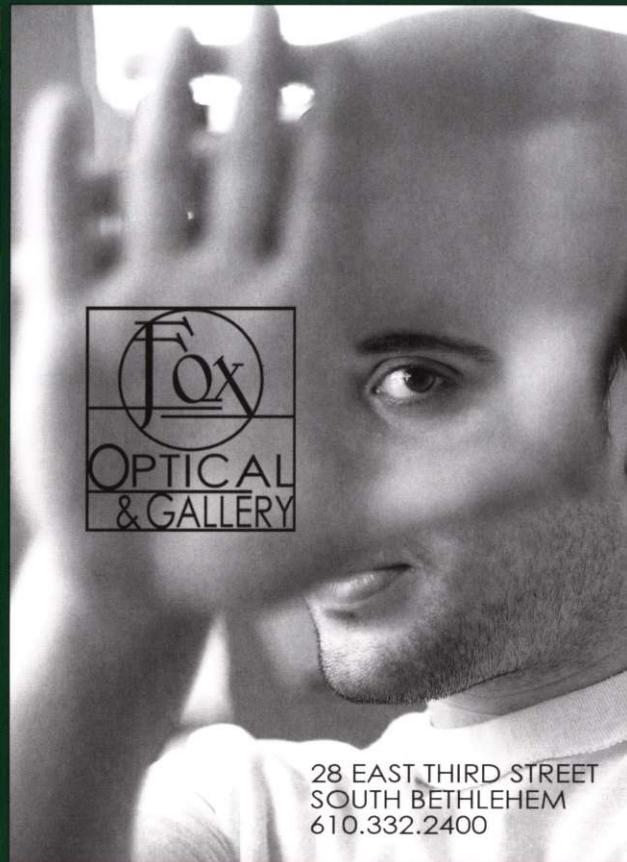
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GAYDAR 25

Kim Plyler

ArtsQuest/Musikfest



Gaydar Magazine: Kim, what is your role with Arts Quest and MusikFest?

Kim Plyler: I'm the director of Marketing and Public relations for ArtsQuest the non-profit arts organization that runs Musikfest.

GM: How do explain the phenomenal success of MusikFest, which will be celebrating 24 years?

KP: Musikfest is successful because it appeals to a wide variety of people. Our shows are selected based on the needs of the community. We have music to fit every demographic from Polka, Rock, Country, Pop, Celtic, Hip-Hop to Chamber music we have it all. We also feature a great array of ethnic foods, handmade crafts and a wonderful "Banana Island" - which by day, is a great place for children to experience the festival and at night this year it will feature world class Jazz and Island music. We also have great support from our volunteers and corporate sponsors. Their support is key to making the Musikfest experience a success.

KP: What can someone who has never been to MusikFest expect to find there?

KP: They will find a creative cultural experience beyond their wildest imagination. Music fills the city and creativity abounds at Musikfest. They will also find a great community that fosters and supports the arts.

KP: Can you spill some secrets for the 25th anniversary celebration?

Well I never like to spill any secrets BUT... I can tell you some of the old favorite events from years past will be resurfacing. Also look for the 25th anniversary collection of Musikfest Mugs, some outstanding performers and a whole lot of fun! Oh yes and you may want to break out those old Musikfest Ball gowns!

GM: How can one get involved with Arts Quest and MusikFest?

KP: To get involved with ArtsQuest, Musikfest, Banana Factory, SteelStax, GlassWorks at the Banana Factory, Christmas City event or First Night Bethlehem, just call 610-332-1300 and ask to speak to our volunteer coordinator, log onto our website www.artsquest.org or stop by the Banana Factory and pick up a volunteer brochure. We are truly a community involved group and we enjoy working with our volunteers.

GM: If you had to pick one favorite moment during your tenure with MusikFest what would it be?

KP: Picking just one favorite memory from my Musikfest experience is difficult since I have so many great memories. I think my most recent one was from the George Clinton Funkadelic concert in 2005. George and crew were great to work with and the party on the stage during the performance was attended by some of the most famous people in the industry. It was a blast.

The other favorite memory comes from the community at Musikfest. I hear hundreds of stories of how Musikfest has changed peoples' lives. One girl told me how she volunteered at Musikfest right after high school. During her shift at the Straub Riverplace Stage she met a performer's tour manager and he took the time to talk with her about the music industry. She is now an executive at a major record label in NY. Musikfest fosters creativity and allows the community to share a exciting musical experience, it is so much fun to be apart of the ArtsQuest organization. If your out at the festival this year, stop by the press center located under the weeping willow tree at the Morning Call Festplatz and share your story. Your story could be come part of the 25th anniversary book. See you at the Fest!

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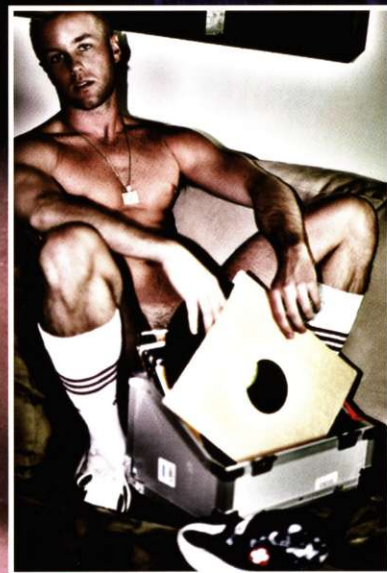
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Photos Courtesy of Project Publicity



The Black Out Tour

"The new trend in nightlife is giving club goers their money's worth," confirms DJ Seth Gold. "For too long, event planners demanded big bucks and offered little in return. Parties are finally realizing that they need to deliver fun times at a fair price and earn back the respect of club goers." For The Black Out tour dates and additional information, visit www.djsethgold.com.



The Show It Tour

The Show It tour, with Scotty Thomson, will travel to various cities throughout the country. In addition to great music and bare bodies, it will feature underwear and swimwear giveaways. For tour dates and additional information, visit www.andrewchristian.com.

Cyndi Lauper

INTERVIEW BY STEPHEN LIBBY

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF FLY-LIFE



Gaydar Magazine: Did you ever think when you were recording it over 20 years ago, that True Colors would become an anthem for the GLBT population?

Cyndi Lauper: I am so proud that so many people in the community consider "True Colors" the gay anthem. It wasn't til about 10 years ago while I was pregnant that I started to realize the impact that it had. I was going through letters and emails from fans telling me how the song gave them hope and support. I can't think of a higher compliment and honor as an artist to know that my music has not only connected with people but actually helped them.

GM: True Colors Tour promises to be one of the most entertaining of the season. Who are some of the participants? And will they change along the tour stops?

CL: We have some amazing bands and iconic artists like Debbie Harry and Erasure. We also have some exciting new artists like Dresden Dolls, The Gossip and The Cliks. The line up will change in various markets. Indigo Girls are joining us in Las Vegas, Rufus Wainwright in DC and Boston, Rosie in NYC and Texas. You can go to the website www.truecolorstour.com for more information and updates. It's a party and I'm really excited to have so many talented people sharing the stage.

GM: How do you explain your long love affair with the GLBT population?

CL: I've always been keyed into gay community and vice versa. Many of my friends are gay and my sister, Ellen, is a lesbian. So my love affair is not just based on my connection via my artistry. The gay community is part of me, my family, my friends, my personal and public relationships and my history.

GM: Who and what inspires you to create music that the world can relate to?

CL: I am inspired by my H.D.A.D.D... "hi definition attention deficit disorder" (laughs) Just kidding, but sometimes great things do come to you out of a chaotic moment - whatever moves me that may or may not be happening in my life or other lives around me. Some of my songs are stories, some are more about a feeling, a vibe, words or conversations that I've had.

GM: You are in the studio working on a new album. Can you give us some teasers on what we can expect?

CL: Expect to shake your asses on the dance

floor and that's all I'm saying.

GM: Please share some of your favorite memories of being an icon for the past 20+ years.

CL: I have so many wonderful memories. I'm sure that the True Colors Tour is going to give me and hopefully, everyone else, some as well. I have been trying to do this tour for the past 5 years. I am doing it because I'm outraged about what is happening in our country with civil liberties in particular with the gay communities' civil liberties. That is what is important to me, that after 20 years, I still have a platform not only to create music, but to hopefully create change.

GM: I have a few friends who have played She Bop so many times they now have to wear glasses now. Do you take any responsibility for that? Any chance of a She Bop 2?

CL: I'd hate to think I've blinded a generation! On the contrary, people were "bopping" before I wrote that song. She bopping is the safest sex you can have...but I don't think I'm going to release "Let's bop again like we did last summer" or anything.



GM: How do you relax at the end of the day?

CL: I practice yoga now and I spend as much time with my family as possible.

GM: What words of inspiration can you offer a young closeted gay person who might pick up this magazine and is struggling with their sexual orientation?

CL: Surround yourself with your family and friends. If your family doesn't embrace you, know that you are not alone and that you can build your own family. Go to the gay center; get connected with peers, and people who understand you and what you are going through. Get connected via the various organizations like Pflag, that are out there. Don't withdraw and don't think that you are any less of a person than the person standing next to you or in front of you. No matter what anyone tells you, go easy on yourself and know that you are fearless and fierce.

For more information on True Colors Tour, go to www.truecolorstour.com And www.myspace.com/officialtruecolorstour



New Hope Celebrates-2007

Been There

Photos by Mark Margraff, Joseph R. Saporito & Stephen Libby



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Done That



Diego Vargas Is Mr. Fire Island Leather 2007

BY BRUCE MICHAEL GELBERT

Fire Island season kicked off with flair on May 19, with the seventh annual Mr. Fire Island Leather contest at the Ice Palace, the Grove Hotel's disco, in Cherry Grove, and hunky Diego Vargas, from Colombia and New York City, became the newest Mr. FI Leather, chosen by a panel of seven judges and besting three other impressive contenders. Diego is the first Latino Mr. FI Leather and this was his second time vying for the title.

both before i'm gone

Both Before I'm Gone - Girl in A Coma

What you might think when you put this album in is that Joan Jett had gotten extra ambitious this year and released another album, but surprise, surprise Girl in A Coma are simply just signed into the original female punk rocker's record label. As their debut release, this album is packed with haunting vocals with a hard rock sound to back it all up with. If your into the punk rock sound and looking for an album to blast while on your way to the beach this is a MUST have. Really into this sound? Some other discs to look into are *Ibiffcus* by Bif Naked or *Fascination* by Monsters are Waiting.



girl IN A COMA

Artwork Courtesy of Ken Phillips Group



Dignity – Hilary Duff

Hilary Duff's newest release *Dignity* is filled with hot beats making it ready for the club and serves as the perfect album for summer. A little bit older and more sophisticated her songs, for example the title track *Dignity* and *With Love*, talk about watching those around her slip into the Hollywood scene and not letting a few comments bruise her ego as long as they are done with love. Like her other releases she continues to be very pop friendly and obviously geared toward a younger crowd, but she makes a great attempt to branch out with a very electronic based sound. Want more albums like this in your CD case? Check out *In the Zone* by Britney Spears or *Give Up* by the Postal Service.

Big – Macy Gray

Big on long instrumentals and sometimes over exaggerated vocals Macy Gray's newest released 'Big' is certainly that. Rather than highlighting all of the different aspects of the album each component is used on every track and makes the album sound repetitive within itself, but also repetitive along side Gray's album catalog. What does redeem the album from its lack of original musical backing is Gray's ever unique voice with a comedic twist within the lyrics. As *Cruel As School Children* by Gym Class Heroes and *Atlantis: Hymns for Disco* by K-O's would make a perfect combination along side this album as far as lyrical originality goes.

Back to Black – Amy Winehouse

Back to Black isn't much out of the norm for the resurgence of albums with a throw-back sound of the good old days. But what did seem to make a heavy splash on the over saturated pool was the release of her first single "Rehab" about friends finding her in need of such an intervention and her declining that she did. Heavily infused with rhythm and an extensive horn it plays nicely along side her soulful vocals and a personal lyric is what sets album apart from the rest. Even though this comes at a time where the music market is flooded with albums of the same influence, it is certainly a new twist on an old favorite. If you haven't had your fill of soulful song birds for summer, get your hands on a copy of *Alright*, *Still* by Lilly Allen and *Back to Basics* by Christina Aguilera.

DJ Ricardo! Presents Out Anthems 2 – Various Artists

Released by Ultra Records *Out Anthems 2* is the second in a series of gay friendly dance-techno tracks. Although to those unfamiliar with house music it may sound like a continuous track, what may make up for that is some risqué track titles and a guy with a smokin' hot body as the album art work. Looking for other compilations to complete your collection start with *Out Anthems 1* and *Ultra Weekend 2*.

Katharine McPhee – Katharine McPhee

Able to avoid most of the wrath of Simon on the fifth round of *American Idol*, this is McPhee's debut album. Only co-writing a whopping one of twelve tracks on the release, it is easy to see that the majority of the album is to feed the appetite for a new female songstress to top of the pop charts where Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera used to sit. Although there is sincerity in her voice and you can tell she sings from the heart, the album sadly falls into what sounds like so many Pop-Soul-R&B released by oh so many, granted fifteen minutes of fame. For more tunes supplied by *American Idol* contestants check out *My December* by Kelly Clarkson or *Daughtry*.

Interpretations : Celebrating Earth, Wind, and Fire – Various Artists

Released March 2007 this is a wonderful interpretation of some of Earth, Wind, and Fire's greatest hits. Artists like Chaka Khan, Kirk Franklin, and Angie Stone pay homage to this super group of Soul with their own renditions of *Shining Star*, *Be Ever Wonderful*, and *September*. Ever wanted to just bust out in your very own dance number in public and have everyone else join in? Well, this album might be able to inspire such an act if played in the right place. Its upbeat and fun sound could just inspire some lip-syncing and grooving at home and in your car. Some other CD's that might inspire some spur of the moment dance routines are *Fashion Nugget* by Cake or *A Fever You Can't Swear Out* by Panic! At the Disco.

The Pipettes – Your Kisses Are Wasted On Me

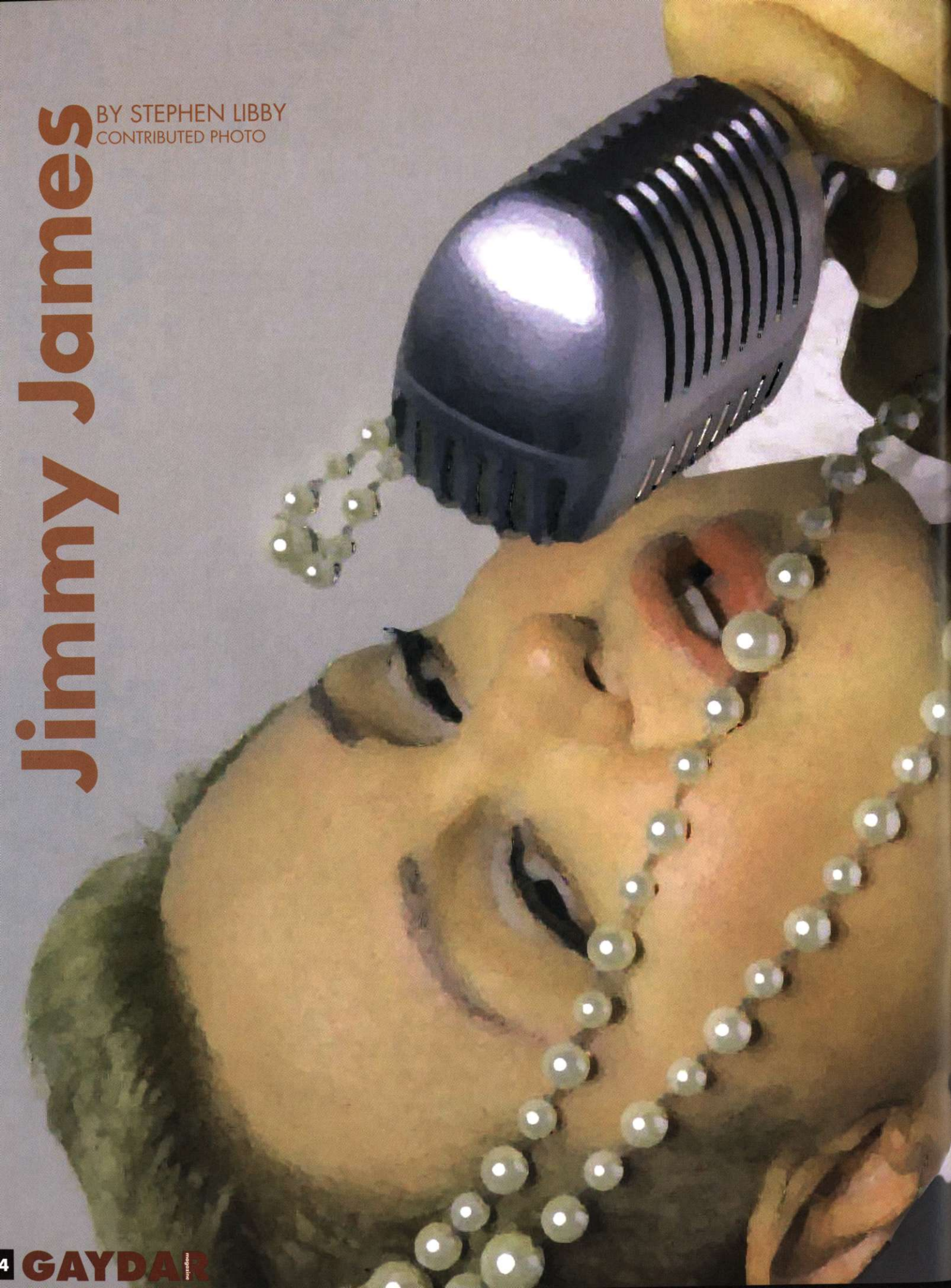
Opening on a strong note, just like any good chick friendly album should, the Pipettes let you know they are in the process of kicking someone to the curb in a upbeat dance kind of way. Much like some other chart favorites, The Pipettes deliver this album heavy with an English accent that make you fall in love with all the lyrics. This CD is so catchy it may cause you to do your hair in Bee-Hive fashion and have you lip synching along into a hair brush in your bathroom! If you are looking for some other albums to compliment this four song E.P. check out "The Chaos In Order" by Let's Go Sailing or "My Boyfriends Back" by the Angels.

Rufus Wainwright – Release the Stars

Release the Stars is more than simply an auditory experience. Finding the perfect combination to balance its perfectly orchestrated music and serious lyrics, the album is complimented with artwork filled with childlike images of gnomes and Mr. Wainwright himself adorned in lederhosen. In light of all the uncertainty of living in America and the unrealistic social expectations, Rufus addresses it with songs like "Do I Disappoint You", "Going to A Town", and "Rules of Regulation". If you still haven't had your fix of singers with something to say and album art work that compliments the sentiments check out "Mr. A-Z" by Jason Mraz or "The Devil And God Are Raging Inside Me" by Brand New.

Jimmy James

BY STEPHEN LIBBY
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



What does it feel like to know you are Jimmy James? What is your reaction when you read an article/review about your performance or to see a photo of yourself in print?

I feel like being Jimmy James is the most perfect thing on this earth! NOT!

I am constantly wanting to evolve and wanting to grow as an artist. I want to be more than what is expected of me. My calling in life since I was 11 years old was to be an entertainer. That being said, I am not one to rest on my laurels. I retired from performing as Marilyn Monroe in 1997. I went on to pursue a recording career for my Voice Impressions and also Dance Music. I now have 3 full length albums for my Voices and a NEW full length album called 'JAMESTOWN' just recently released with a chart topping single called "Fashionista." In May '07 the other single gets released called "Summer Sun."

Describe a day in the life of Jimmy James.

Well, I try to be up by 11am to watch The View and have coffee & breakfast, usually Egg Beaters with turkey or vegetarian sausage. Then I have phone calls, 5 different email accounts (2 Myspace pages & 3 email accounts). I juggle TWO careers right now - The Recording Artist Jimmy James and The Voice Impressionist Jimmy James. I try to go to the gym somewhere in the day sometimes around 4pm to treadmill to Oprah or Ellen. At night I'll sometimes go to a club or 2 to be seen. It's important in NYC to be seen out especially when you have an ongoing show in the city like I do. I perform on the weekends at Helen's Restaurant, Cabaret and Lounge. My show is called "DIVAS ARE FOREVER!" It's been a big success for me.

How many of the celebrities that you impersonate have seen you perform? How have they responded?

A lot of them are dead! Eitha Kitt has been very kind to me. I've opened for her a couple of times. Cher's Mom and Grandmother have seen me and have told Cher about me and they said Cher would love me. The rest like, Judy Garland, Patsy Cline, Billie Holiday, Bette Davis, Liza, Diana Ross, Barbra Streisand, Karen Carpenter, Mae West etc... don't know I'm breathing or they're not breathing themselves.

How does it feel to live with all these personalities in the same body? Do you ever use your performance as a means of therapy for yourself?

I focus on the Voices of these legends. I try to capture something of their essence in some way when I do their voice but their personalities do not live in me. I know exactly who I am. I'm a singer, a voice impressionist, and a performance artist. I'm told by people that off stage I'm very grounded and normal. As a Gemini, perhaps getting all those personalities out on stage is good therapy so that I don't torture people off stage (laughing). Singing and music is kind of therapeutic because I love what I do.

What is the most fun to perform?

Why does everyone ask me this? This is hard because I never ever spend the time it takes to do someone's voice unless I'm a big fan of theirs (working on a voice can take 2 years). If I could give anyone a tiny extra notch, it might go to Cher. But I love and adore everyone I impersonate. I'm a big fan of everyone I portray. So when you see me doing an impression, it comes from love and respect for the artist. I pay homage. I never disrespect them.

What are some highlights of your long, illustrious career?

It's been 20 years now. My first appearance on Phil Donahue and getting him tongue tied (May 1987) and all the talk shows that followed. Kissing Geraldo on national TV. I have been the longest running most successful show in Provincetown history. Selling more CDs than any other performer there. Landing on a Billboard in Times Square with Linda Evangelista (1996) so that I could tell everyone that I too have been a supermodel. Also having a full length album in Dance Music with all songs written by me with top notch music producers with a hit single (Fashionista) that Drag Queens all over the world are lipsynching to. On top of all of this, being able to leave my simple life in San Antonio, TX and see a lot of the world. Being able to meet lots of people all over the country. Being able to create a job for myself. Never having to punch a time card is a big highlight to me.

Who are the current divas in training? Which of the current young female celebrities has a shot at a long term career and to linger in the minds of gay men 25-30 years from now like Judy Garland, Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Cher, Bette Midler etc?

The Diva in training right now is ME (laughing). Honestly I have been so busy with my new album...that I have not included anyone since Liza, Britney, Macy Gray, and Norah Jones. Britney's antics right now are very "Diva." She will probably make a great comeback with great music, film, tv, etc... pathos is great ingredient for a Diva's life. In case you're wondering I won't be doing Jennifer Hudson anytime soon nor will you hear any Kelly Clarkson. So don't ask. I really love them but come on... That's impossible to tackle. I'm still a man, dare I say it (laughing). These chicks can sang!

What can an audience expect to see at a Jimmy James show?

My forte is that I do tricks with my throat! I like to say that, cause hey, maybe I can get a date out of the gig (laughing). I will be recreating live some of the most famous female voices of the 20th Century. Besides that I'm humble self-deprecating and full of charisma (or full of myself) but not as self-absorbed as Varla Jean Merman (laughing). My show moves fast. If you don't like a particular voice, gimme 3 minutes and I'll be on to the next one. I will use my voice as an instrument by which to make you feel as though you are in the same room with some of these great ladies. I'm also singing a couple of my songs from "JAMESTOWN."

What are you working on now and what can we expect from you in the next year?

Right now I'm wondering what will happen with "Summer Sun" when it gets released in May '07. Only the public can decide if it's a hit or not. I've been wondering about moving to Las Vegas. I don't know. I like L.A. and I like New York... I'm a very conflicted Gemini. People should give me advice. I'm willing to listen. Right now "Fashionista" is exploding in various parts of the world so we'll see.

Who would be victorious in this Celebrity Deathmatch? Jimmy James as Liza Minnelli or the real Liza Minnelli?

The real Liza wins! I would never beat up Judy Garland's daughter! NEVER!



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2 Gay Guys Go Down On Titanic!

Archibald Butt and Frank Millet: An Untold Tale of the Titanic

By Frank Whelan

On the afternoon of April 16, 1912 desperate crowds pressed against the windows of the New York Times building in the city's Times Square. Parents and children, sons and daughters all had one goal, seeing if their loved ones were on the list of survivors of the sinking of the liner Titanic. The largest man made object afloat it had plunged to the bottom of the North Atlantic at 2.20 a.m. the day before. Its 1,503 victims included poor Syrian, Italian and Russian immigrants and John Jacob Astor IV, one of the richest men in America.

In the crowd was Richard B. Watrous, secretary of the American Civic Association. A resident of Washington D.C., he was scanning the bulletin boards for information about two men who were his friends, Major Archibald "Archie" Butt, 46, military aide to President William Howard Taft and Francis Davis "Frank" Millet 60, artist, war correspondent and world traveler.

"No Damon and Pythias friendship could have been closer than the friendship of Major Butt and Millet," Watrous told the Times. "The two kept quarters together and were inseparable when both were in Washington....a bachelor and Mr. Millet's family being quartered at his home in England."

Neither Watrous or the New York Times felt they had to explain who Damon and Pythias were. Symbolic of devoted male friendship these figures from ancient Greek history were assumed in classical times to have been lovers. But, "the unspeakable vice of the Greeks" as a character in gay author E.M. Forester novel "Maurice" called homosexuality in 1913, probably crossed the minds of few readers of the New York Times when they read about Millet and Butt.

It was many days after the Titanic's sinking that the fates of Butt and Millet were confirmed. The artist's battered body was recovered from the North Atlantic and taken to a church cemetery in East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, his hometown. Butt's body was never recovered. Perhaps like many others it was carried down to the bottom with the Titanic.

Every so often the world goes Titanic crazy. It happened 10 years ago when James Cameron's technologically cutting edge epic film enabled the world to almost step aboard the ship. Those who were not thrilled by the technology could cling to the basics of a Hollywood love story. Kate Winslet, poor little rich girl fated to marry the pompous

rich creep Billy Zane is swept off her feet by the charms of poor, struggling, drop dead gorgeous artist Leonardo DiCaprio.

But the other potential Titanic love story is one that Hollywood was and is still unwilling to tackle. There is nothing to prove that Butt and Millet were in a sexual relationship. But thanks to the work of gay historian Jonathan Ned Katz it is known that at least one of them knew what it was like to be deeply in love with another man.

Millet was born with adventure in his blood and never seemed to have gotten enough of it. He saw the light of day on November 3, 1846 in Mattapoisett, Massachusetts and grew up in East Bridgewater. His father Asa Millet was a doctor. His mother Huldah Byram was a descendent of a family that arrived on the Mayflower.

During the Civil War, 15 year old Millet joined the Union Army as a drummer boy. His father, serving as a contract surgeon, (not an official U.S. Army doctor but under contract to the government), quickly arranged it so that his son was nearby. Millet saw some fighting before finishing the last month of his service guarding Confederate prisoners of war.

In November, 1864 Millet entered Harvard. In college he developed an interest in drawing and painting. Following his graduation with a degree in modern languages and literature he began a career in journalism. Millet also picked up the skills of lithographer. He earned enough money to take him to the Royal Academy of Art in Antwerp, Belgium.

By the standards of today, when all art in that period is seen through the eyes of French Impressionists, Millet's work seems old fashioned. But in two years he won all the art prizes the Royal Academy had to offer.

According to Katz it was in 1874 that Millet met Charles Warren Stoddard, writer and world traveler and lover of men. They met in Venice, the tolerant Italian city popular with homosexual Englishmen and Americans in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Millet had just returned from an artist's holiday in the exotic lands of Turkey, Greece, Romania and Hungary. One evening he stepped into the box at the opera occupied by Stoddard. "We looked at each other and were acquainted in a minute," Stoddard recalled later. "Some people understand one another at sight, and don't have to try either."

During the winter of 1874-75 Stoddard

and Millet lived together as lovers.

Stoddard's sexual realtionships tended to be exclusively male. But Millet, Katz says, was more typical of many 19th century men. "The range of Millet's erotic interests between men and women was not then understood as "bisexual," a mix of "homo" and "hetero," Katz writes.

Stoddard had a wandering eye and was not into settling down long. "Miss you?" wrote Millet in a letter to Stoddard who had gone traveling. "Bet your life. Put yourself in my place...Empty chair, empty bed, empty house."

Stoddard and Millet drifted apart as partners but remained friends. Millet ended up covering the Russo Turkish War 1877-78, for British newspapers and was decorated by the Czar's government. Articles he wrote at the time suggest a more than casual interest in Cossacks. In 1879 Millet married Elizabeth Merrill, the daughter of an old friend who was newspaper editor. The wedding was in Paris. Mark Twain was the best man. They were to have three children.

In 1885 Millet founded an art colony in rural England with artists John Singer Sargent and Edwin Austin Abbey. Author Henry James wrote an article about it and Millet for Harper's Monthly magazine.

The rest of his years were filled with books, travel, paintings, gardening and war. Millet was appointed Director of Decoration and Functions for the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. While in Chicago, Katz notes, "he got the visiting Stoddard a room next to his own." In 1898 Millet as a journalist followed the U.S. Army to the Philippines for the Spanish American War.

By the early 20th century Millet was getting major arts commissions from state governments who wanted historical murals for their capital buildings. He is believed to have been working on sketches for one such a project while on the Titanic. But Millet's chief role than was as president of the American Academy at Rome, an art school for Americans abroad which he helped found and was visiting on his 1912 trip.

Archibald "Archie" Butt, like Millet was another lower middle class boy who made good. Born on September 25, 1865 in Augusta, Georgia, the chief driving force in his life was his mother Pamela Robertson Butt who raised him and the rest of the family after the early death of his father. Despite his military title Butt had spent most of his life a journalist. It was only

during the Spanish American War when he managed to get a load of horses across the Pacific to the Philippines without losing a single one that he got his army commission.

Butt's skill with horses got him the rank of Captain in the Army's Quartermaster Corps. Here he came to the attention of President Theodore Roosevelt. Rough Rider Teddy loved talking horses with Butt. His greatest "stunt" as the newspapers called it at the time, with the president was in 1908 traveling for nine hours through rugged country on horseback during a blizzard. Two Army doctors were with them.

But most of what Butt did at the White House had more to do with social life. It was Butt who handled all the state dinners, parties and protocol laden events for both the Taft and Roosevelt White Houses. Knowing who to put next to whom and perhaps, more importantly, who NOT to put next to who, took every ounce of his Southern gentlemen's sense of tact. His books of letters, first to his mother and after her death his sister-in-law, published in the 1930s offer insights into the era that few other sources can match.

How Butt and Millet met is unclear. Perhaps it was at a White House event

or some other social occasion. The only mention of Millet in Butt's letters was in September, 1910. Butt had just returned from a long trip with Taft. During that time Millet had totally redecorated his friend's bedroom in wallpaper covered with roses.

"Both my bedroom and dressing room are walled with red and pink roses, from buds to full blown flowers and even when I shut my eyes I seem to see them tumbling over each other," Butt wrote. Interestingly the last letter in Butt's collection includes a reminder to his sister-in-law that in case "the old ship sinks" she could find his letters stored in a trunk in his attic. He claimed that he had not had any "presentiment" that anything might happen. But it is rather curious that he should bring this issue up.

For his six week stay in Europe Butt brought seven large steamer trunks. His fancy traveling costume of copper colored Norfolk jacket with red porcelain buttons, lavender tie and a bunch of lilies in his button hole caused the New York Times to headline its story about his departure, "Major Butt's Suit A Wonder"

On March 21, 1912 Butt had a private audience with Pope Pius X. Millet apparently took care of some business

affairs at the Academy in Rome. Their exact location is unknown for the rest of the trip but they ended up in England where Millet visited with his wife. They apparently took the Titanic because of the White Star Line's reputation for speed.

The last thing Millet wrote that survives was a letter sent from the Titanic to one of his friends in England. Dropped off in Queenstown, Ireland, it was full of praise for the big modern ship "not at all like going to sea" and scorn for some of the "obnoxious ostentatious American woman" on board who "carry tiny dogs and lead husbands around like pet lambs."

Butt and Millet were seen playing cards in the first class men's smoking room as the ship started to slop toward the Atlantic. There are many accounts of them later helping passengers into lifeboats and of Millet using his knowledge of Italian and other languages to calm immigrant passengers.

Many memorial services were held for Butt and Millet. It was about a year later that their Washington friends erected a fountain in their honor in the grounds behind the White House, a symbol of their Damon and Pythias friendship that endures to this day.

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Fashionably Late...Always In Season

Featuring some of the nation's leading gay & gay-friendly entertainers

By Jorge Treviano
Photo Courtesy of Project Publicity

James St. James Freak Show

As big a splash as James St. James made on the NYC Club Kid circuit in the 1980s and '90s, his entrée into the literary world may prove to be equally fraught with controversy—and over-the-top fabulousness.

His new novel, *Freak Show*, stars Billy Bloom, a scrawny, pale redhead—a 17-year-old for whom the phrase “drag queen” is scarcely sufficient. Frenetically narrating with a tongue seemingly dipped in both acid and silver, Billy finds himself a high school senior enrolled at the Eisenhower Academy, populated with Stepford teens.

Even the bible of book publishers, *Publisher's Weekly Magazine*, is singing the book's praises. In its glowing review, the magazine writes St. James pulls no punches in describing the escalating verbal and physical abuse Billy suffers at the hands of his classmates. He finds an unlikely ally in the gorgeous football player Flip Kelly and rather than leave the academy, Billy takes a stand for outcasts

everywhere by running for... what else... homecoming queen!

In *Billy Bloom*, St. James creates an archetypal hero for outsiders and freaks. It's nearly impossible to remain untouched after walking a mile in the stilettos of someone so unflinchingly true to himself and so blisteringly funny.

Freak Show is a really wonderful novel, James!

My aim in writing *Freak Show* was to create a positive, Auntie Mame-like hero for teens. An outrageous, outspoken, larger-than-life super freak. But what makes Billy (the main character in the story) especially refreshing and unique is that he is completely at ease with himself. He knows exactly who he is and how he wishes to present himself. It's everybody else that has the problem. There is no pain or shame or big psychosexual drama in his wearing drag. It's simply the way he chooses to express himself.

What is the predominant message that you hope to convey in *Freak Show*?

Easy: acceptance. Finding joy in personal style. Living your life creatively, without fear. It was important for me to write something for my teenage fans that had the stylistic decadence of *Party Monster*, but didn't glorify drugs or murder. I'm very proud of that book, but I worry that the teens who read it don't get that I'm being ironic or that it's really a cautionary tale.

Who would play Billy and Flip in the film version of *Freak Show*?

I'm definitely thinking Aaron Carter for Flip. And I can't imagine a young actor out there, now, who could play Billy. But in my head I see Lindsay Lohan playing a boy, playing a girl, and getting her Oscar.

James St. James can be reached at www.myspace.com/totally_james_st_james.

Gays Said What?

By BFF Gary Gaugler Jr. & Shawn Bausher

Gary Says Topic Shawn Says

Good, nobody likes anyone that loud and outspoken.

Yay! I hope there's room for Lindsay & Nicole.

Best Movie of the Summer!

Caution! Should only be worn if tall & under 30.

Sandals? This isn't the Bible. Break out the flip-flops!

Dark eyebrows aside-Thumbs up!

Mango Mojitos & Pomegranate Martinis or...is that vice versa

Pool, beach. I love seeing my bf in his bathing suit.

I'd like to marry one day, so they have my support.

Mom says 'you can't polish shit'

Bad daughter=great papparazzi

It takes the focus off the husband stealing

My wait is finally over! Thumbs up to Jane Mancini for being the nice one while dealing with a cheating husband, backstabbing sister and whorish neighbors. I LOVE JANE!

Hottest man ever!

They don't understand the impact and that is unfortunate

If she's a pushover with the war like she is with her husband, I'm not interested

Perfect idea! Now I get to see more of your fat ass!

She should have dug her key into his side!

Rosie leaves The View

Paris in Jail

Spiderman 3

Plaid Shorts

Summer Footwear

Blonde Hair for Summer

Best Summer Drink

Vacation Hot Spots

Pride Festivals

Britney & Lindsay Post-Rehab

Kids recording their Celebrity Parents Alcoholism

Stars Adopting 3rd World Kids

Melrose Place S2 on DVD

Chris Evans

Gay Community Apathy

Clinton VS Obama

Thongs

Carrie Underwood

The View will suck again.

I guess prison-overcrowding isn't an issue in California.

Another one? Why?

Caution! Should only be worn if you have nice legs & w/ flip flops-which requires groomed feet!

Pedicure! Pedicure! No one wants to see your gnarly toes.

Brown is the new blonde.

A nice cold corona...with a lime for extra gayness!

Spain! I don't want to see your bf in his bathing suit.

Never forget the struggles of our forefathers and mothers.

Stop covering them in the press! Who cares?!

Money does not equal brains

Admirable!

My wait is finally over! Thumbs up to Amanda Woodward for being the bitch that she is and ruining everyone's lives. Way to go! I LOVE AMANDA!

Nah...I still love Brad Pitt!

It is disgusting & unbelievable

It's time for a woman to run the country, we've seen what men can do

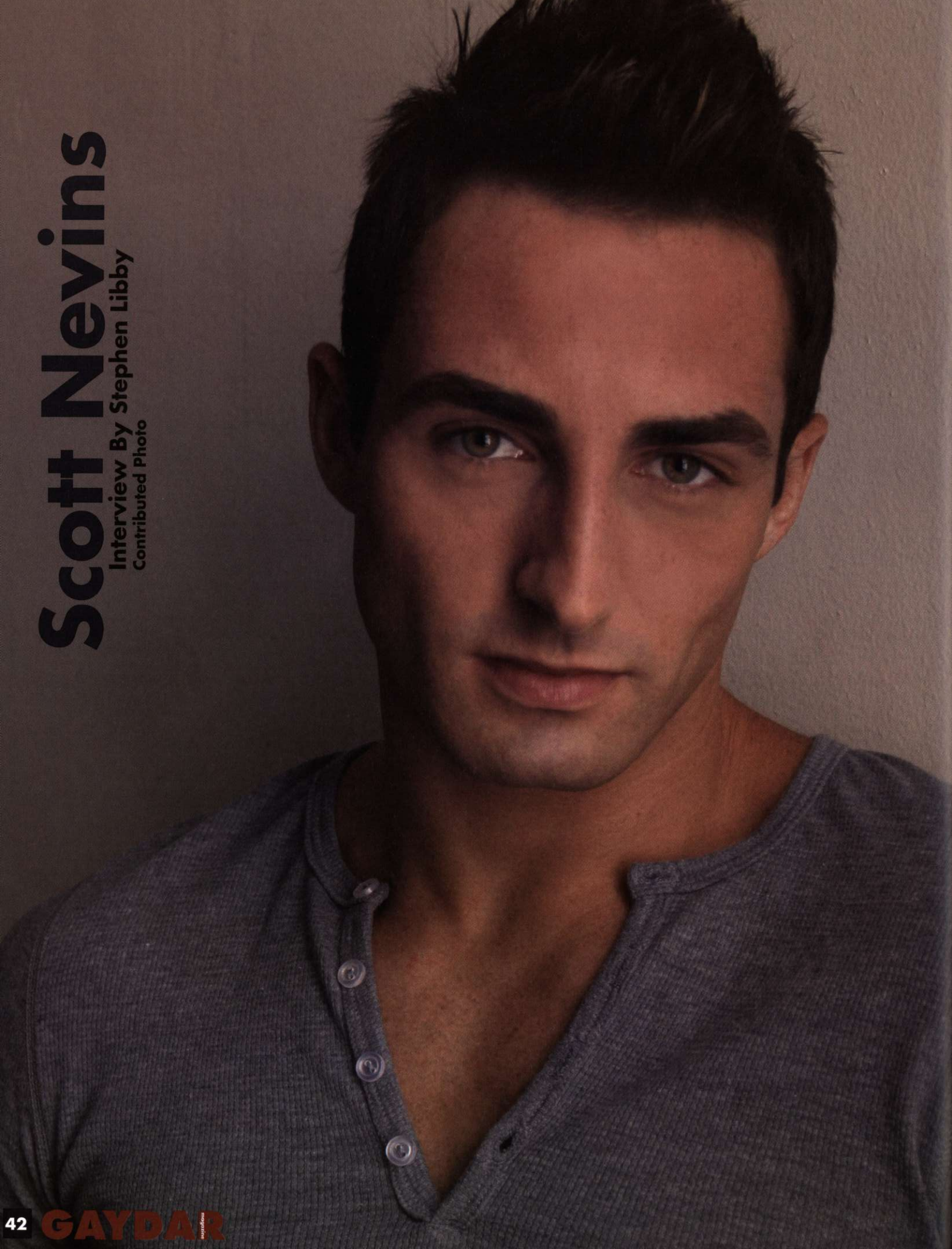
I don't want to see it or the tramp stamp on your back!

She should think before she encourages criminal mischief

Are you a Gary or a Shawn?
Let us know at www.gaydarmagazine.com

Scott Nevins

Interview By Stephen Libby
Contributed Photo



Gaydar Magazine: What kind of a degree does one need in order to become the host with the most as Soap Opera Digest called you?

Scott Nevins: No degree, just a lot of balls! Truth be told, I studied Dramaturgy in college at SUNY Purchase but always knew I wanted to be a host/interviewer. Everyday someone asks me how did you get into what you're doing and I honestly don't have an answer! It all started when I did my live talk show at therapy in NYC. I had tons of celebs come in like Tammy Faye Messner, RuPaul and Deborah Cox and do full sit down interview with me at a Gar Bar, and then perform live! It was a really special time for me and the most grueling learning experience of my life! After learning how to control that audience of drunk whores and get them to listen, I felt like I could do anything!

GM: Who is the gayer host: you or Ryan Seacrest?

SN: Seacrest is gayer than Christmas at Macys in a pair of ruby slippers! Does no one remember the episode of Idol where he actually said I'm really obsessed with ABS and then said oh maybe we can go get a mani / pedi. Ryan and I have the same hair guy. Now THAT'S gay!

GM: Of the celebrities you've interviewed, who was the easiest and who was the most difficult and why?

SN: I don't know about easiest but the best was Tammy Faye. She was my first celeb interview and no one knew what to expect. I spent weeks preparing for that night and it was more magical than I ever thought it would be. At one point I got her to make me be the first man to ever have his eyelashes done by Tammy Faye. While she was doing this she poked me in the eye with the mascara wand! I was blind for the rest of the night, but I didn't care because Tammy Faye's mascara wand blinded me. That's kind of like finding the image of the Jesus formed in your bowl of Captain Crunch right?!

GM: Did you use to practice by interviewing your Barbies, using a hairbrush for a microphone?

SN: No, my mom wouldn't let me have Barbies so I had to interview my care bears (aren't they JUST as gay as Barbie??) but instead of a hair brush I actually had one of those microphones that transmitted to your am/fm radio on a dead station. I thought I was so Sally Jesse with that mic!

Celebutant, who do you think you are? Finally someone asks that question! When we came up with the title Celebutant: Don't You Know Who I think I Am? I knew I'd be explaining it for years to come!

GM: How are you spending the summer?

SN: Working. I am starting to do the preliminary dates for what will be the tour of my show CELEBUTANT, which basically means I'm playing your local MOBILE station and chuck-e-cheese's! I'm also spending some much needed down time with friends and family, and spending countless hours fulfilling my addiction to myspace www.myspace.com/ScottNevins.

GM: Are you in a relationship, and if so how does he deal with your time away from home? If no, what do you look for in a potential boyfriend?

SN: Right now, I am single and holding open auditions for future ex husbands! Please send your headshots and resumes to [HYPERLINK "http://www.myspace.com/scottnevins"](http://www.myspace.com/scottnevins) www.myspace.com/scottnevins or [HYPERLINK "http://www.scottnevins.com"](http://www.scottnevins.com) www.scottnevins.com. I was in a 2 and 1/2 year relationship, which was a great time for learning about myself, and about myself with someone else! We lived together, but in NYC that's not love, it's just economical --- everything was half price! No seriously, I'm a total romantic. I'm a lover not a fighter. Don't get me wrong, I can throw down and be a fighter if someone steps to me, but I'm more of a dinner/dancing/roses/ holding the door/sweaty sex on a dirty mattress in an abandoned building until dawn kind of gentleman, you know, very old fashioned. As for the schedule, it's hard when you do the kind of thing I do because you are your own company, you are the product you are selling. I don't have a team to do everything for me, so work doesn't start at 9 am and end at 6pm like it does for most people, and that is very strenuous on a relationship. The poor guy who gets stuck with me will need to have the patience of a saint!!! But don't worry, I'm working on making sure I'm up for doing the same! Any man of mine must have a great sense of humor. If you can make me laugh, you've got me hook, line and sinker! Personality and Brains a MUST. Smart is so sexy, I'm dead serious, it is the biggest turn on.

GM: What are your future aspirations?

SN: Professionally, in the near future I am

involved with a very exciting radio project where I would have my own daily radio show, but ultimately the goal is TV hosting, leading to my own television talk show. Personally, (and this sounds so corny) I'm trying to stop being so hard on myself, and learn to accept my flaws along with my good attributes. I'm a perfectionist and sometimes that can be deadly. I could give the performance of my life, get standing ovations, and then walk off the stage focusing only on the one line I messed up or the joke that didn't get a laugh. I've gotten much better at it but it's though. I have learned to be grateful and count the blessings not the bad. Oh and I'm still trying to believe people when they say that my nose is sexy. As I type that I am googling rhinoplasty surgeons in my hood. Ah well.

GM: You're a very good looking guy. Are there any sex tapes out there featuring you? Just wondering. And, what is the web address to download them?

SN: Do I look like Paris Hilton, Collin Farrell or Kid Rock ??? Don't answer that! A sex video would be hot, who are my co-stars and what aren't we wearing?

GM: What causes are you involved with, in other words; how do you use your power for good?

SN: I always tell my buddy, (the incredible) Charles Busch that I have taken over his reign as "Queen of the Benefits". At one point I think it was counted that I had performed in or hosted over 300 benefits in 5 years! I always said if I had ANY tiny bit of success that I would use it to help people, but 300 benefits?! So, I had to decide to focus on a select few that I am really passionate about like Broadway Cares Equity Fights Aids, The Point Foundation, (which helps put these incredible gay and lesbian kids through college) Freedom to Marry, and the Pay Scott's rent Fund! The last is still in need of your help. For just a dollars a day, you too can save a Scott from living on the streets. We accept cash, checks, credit cards, food stamps and paypal money transfers. Only you can prevent a homeless homo.

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Joe Sayers

INTERVIEW BY STEPHEN LIBBY

PHOTOS BY JOE OPPEDISANO



Gaydar Magazine: At what age did you decide to become the hottest model ever?

Joseph Sayers: Hottest Model? I hardly think that I'm the hottest model or even close.

There are quite a few of very attractive men out there. I feel honored that some people consider me to a member of that group.

As far as being a model, I hardly consider myself one of those either. My career began at 18 years old. I had shot with Patrick Lee and Hudson Wright, but I would have to say that it all began when I shot Abercrombie with Bruce Weber. February 3-12 of 2002 down in the Florida Keys.

GM: Did you apply to a modeling agency or were you discovered? What were doing before modeling?

JS: I don't know how to get discovered. Silver Models (formerly strengthnet) contacted me via an email and made numerous posts on

modellaunch.com to get my attention.

From there, I was introduced to numerous NYC based agencies and I chose Major Model Management as Jason Kanner is a pit bull by reputation. He is still my agent to this day. I was doing landscaping before I got into modeling and I was a college wrestler. My original major was health and physical education, now it's biology/premed.

GM: You've worked with some of the best photographers. What's the most exciting shoot you've been involved with?

JS: Still to this day, Abercrombie takes the cake for the most exciting shoot. Maybe it was because I was so young and eager or maybe it was because it was my first trip to FL Keys and I was surrounded by so many beautiful people, all of which I had seen in magazines prior to meeting them in person... all I know is that it will always be hard to top the experience I had down there.

GM: What's the weirdest thing a fan has sent you or wanted you to autograph?

JS: I haven't received anything from a fan that wasn't ordinary. I always feel awkward when I'm asked for my autograph. I mean, why do they want my autograph? My handwriting sucks and I'm no Brad Pitt, so why would they want my crummy signature?

GM: Do you have a significant other and how do they deal with the demands of your career?

JS: I can be considered single but relationship status is a mindset, so I consider myself to be taken. My significant other is very understanding and supportive.

GM: Is your family supportive?

JS: My family is supportive as long as I don't make myself out to be an illiterate fool. They are most supportive of me finishing my education. I don't think that my family will ever stop being proud of me... and I'm going to do my best to make sure of that.

GM: What would our readers be most surprised to learn about you?

JS: Well, I'd have to say that they'd be more disgusted than surprised. I wash my hair twice a week. Sometimes I got days without showering and I sometimes wear the same t-shirt for days in a row (that's only if I don't leave the house). Also, I cracked two teeth my junior year of high school and I have two half-real/half-fake teeth... put that together and I'm missing one whole tooth.

GM: What turns you on/off?

JS: I'm a guy... a strong gust of wind turns me on. What turns me off are people that overly self-conscious. I can deal with a lot of things

but insecurity is just plain annoying.

GM: What's your regular work out routine like?

JS: My workout routine is a lot of cardio and some weights. I do a lot of kick boxing, circuit training, plyometrics, and aerobic weight lifting. I know I'm not as big as I used to be, nor am I as strong as I used to be, but I'd rather look like I can bench 300lbs than actually be able to bench 300lbs (my highest max ever was 405lbs).

GM: What kind of music do you listen to while working out?

JS: A lot of people like to listen to rock and get pumped out. I listen to motown and country. I like to be relaxed. The lyrics are stories, so I'm focused on the words and less on the fact that I'm about to fall over. I actually prefer to watch Seinfeld when I work out. I pop in a DVD and an hour and a half later, I'm still on the exercise bike and the laughing is great for my abs.

GM: What is your inspiration? What are your aspirations?

JS: My inspirations are my family... my parents, sisters, brother, nieces, etc. My aspirations are to complete my degree and get into med school next year.

GM: I have so many friends that would like me to say hi and that they love you. How many names are in your Blackberry that they would have to compete with?

JS: My phone has 85 people in there and probably over a hundred numbers. I know that sounds like a lot but most of them are family. I keep a very tight group of people in my life.

GM: What words of wisdom would you

offer a young gay man who wants to get into modeling?

JS: STAY IN SCHOOL!!! Modeling is full of disappointments. You'll have to go on 20 castings in order to book just one job. There is money in the industry but it isn't continuous and constant. Some jobs will pay in the tens of thousands and some won't pay even a single dime. It's always good to have a career plan. Modeling is more like a fling. It

won't last forever and the industry is always looking for a fresh, new face. So my advice would be to STAY IN SCHOOL!!!

GM: My boyfriend and I would like to invite you over for "dinner". What should we make?

JS: Cheeseburgers and steak fries. I'm as American as you can get and so is my appetite.

GM: I asked Joe this one: What are your favorite curse words and can you use them all in a sentence?

JS: I don't curse very often but when I get angry, I let the f-bombs fly. As far as sentences, "f*ck" is like ketchup, it goes on and with everything.

GM: Thanks for doing this interview Joe! We all wish you a long and healthy career!



Photographer Joe Oppedisano

Gaydar Magazine: Describe what it's like to see you own photography in books, magazines, and galleries?

Joe Oppedisano: Very strange. I was a fashion editor for 12 years before becoming a photographer, so I was used to seeing my name in magazines, but seeing a photograph you shot is another story. My photos are all very personal, so when I see them and have people talk to me about them, I feel almost embarrassed...it's an odd feeling. I love doing gallery shows, but hate hearing people talk about the pictures in front of me...the book thing just blew my mind. We did a book signing at Rizzoli, and I went into the store the week before to finalize everything, and when I saw the book on the shelf, at RIZZOLI I was extremely uncomfortable, and nervous...that's when it all hit me.

GM: What privileges does being Joe Oppedisano allow you?

JO: Well, I actually wrote nothing at first, but I guess having gorgeous men ask you to photograph them anyway I would like is a definite benefit...

GM: Along the lines of a "casting couch", is there such a thing as the "photographer's couch"? If so, who may have visited yours?

JO: I TRY and be professional. I respect the guys and girls I shoot, and when I shoot, believe it or not, there is very little, if no sexual vibe. A lot of the guys I shoot are straight, and if they feel the least bit uncomfortable, or like they are being hit on, you will never get them to do what you (I) need them to do.

GM: What is it about hot, sweaty, masculine men that never goes out of style?

JO: Well, for me, it's all about realness. I like to see a guy when I turn a corner that is walking down the street (or better yet, sweaty, digging a ditch) who has no clue he's hot. There's something hot about the way they have no idea what kind of hard on they give guys.

GM: Whose work do you admire and who inspires you to create your beautiful images?

JO: I studied Renaissance Art in Florence in college, so that was a huge inspiration to me. Photographers like Helmut Newton, Avedon, Penn, Skribneski, masters of light, form, shape and attitude. But, Tom of Finland and Jim French for COLT are the inspirations that I refer to the most.

GM: How do you fill your down time?



JO: I have a dog that keeps me very occupied. He's all I want to be around when I'm not working.

GM: Do you have a partner and how does he feel about your profession? If you are single what kind of man is likely to catch your eye?

JO: Interesting question. I do have a boyfriend, we live together, and he's very proud of me and my work, but I think he freaks out a little sometimes because all of a sudden I'm on porn sets and shooting hard-ons all day. The thing is, this is my job, and it's my life...I never thought I would be doing what I'm doing, but here I am, and I love my job, so it has to be respected. But the kind of guy that catches my eye is one with confidence. To me, a guy can be fat, thin, dark hair, blonde, whatever, it's all about the way he carries himself, that's what makes a man hot to me.

GM: With a self described "mouth like a construction worker", what is your favorite curse word?

JO: I've been good on this interview actually. Well, the best is c*nt, because its sooo offensive to

people... and I use it often.

GM: Do you have a favorite locale, model, and equipment when shooting?

JO: I have muses. I find a guy I love to shoot and shoot him a lot. Joe Sayers, Sam, Ivan, my boyfriend Brad, and my new favorite is Torres, who will be one of the shots I'll send you, he's incredible...then there are my model models, like Ben and James who give 110% every time. I like guys who are willing to take it there, and have fun, and are ready for anything.

GM: Testosterone is a hot book! What's next for Joe Oppedisano?

JO: Two things, one is a book of nudes of superstar Joe Sayers, which we are still working on, and another is almost a part two to Testosterone, and it takes everything and revs it up 100% fast forward. Much more porn...but still very slick and glossy.

GM: Thanks Joe. Great interview.

JO: Yeah, next time your in the village you better call me for coffee bitch!

GM: I love you, Joe!



...more from Testosterone





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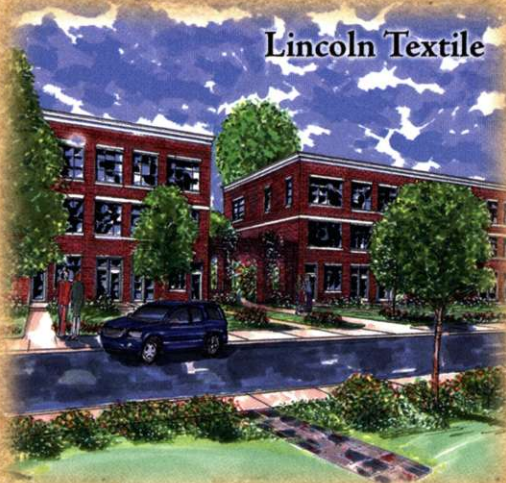
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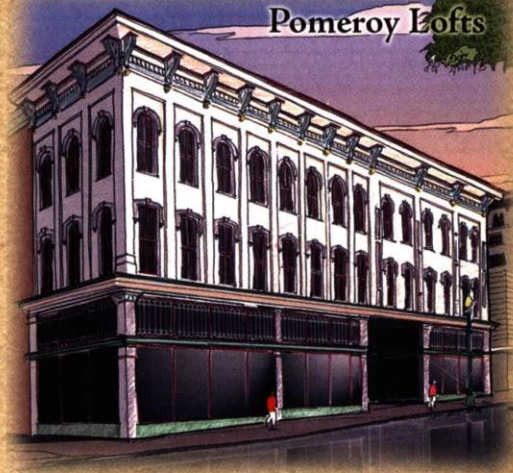
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